

B103.



# CHARLES LAMB

Price 3<sup>d</sup>

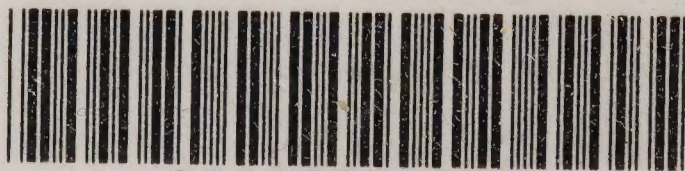
Printed & Published  
at the Office of  
"COPE'S TOBACCO PLANT"  
10 Lord Nelson St. Liverpool 1890.



Pam (B) / LAM

Tobacconists not finding what they  
require in the Advertisements are requested  
to send for Price Lists to COPE'S TOBACCO  
WORKS, 10, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool,  
or, COPE'S BRANCH TOBACCO FACTORY, 89,  
Great Eastern Street, London, E.C.

TELEGRAMS:—Cope, Liverpool. or, Golden Cloud, London.



22500256399





A FEW CURSORY REMARKS ON BIRD'S EYE.



"Where ish de lofely Golden Cloud?"

HANS BREITMANN'S BARTY.

REGISTERED TRADE MARK.

**GOLDEN CLOUD.**

CLASS 45. No. 5604.

FAC-SIMILE OF LABEL.

Registered Trade Mark.

**FINE CUT  
BRIGHT CAVENDISH**



TRADE **COPE** MARK

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

SOLD IN PACKETS ONLY.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS—

**COPE BROS. & CO., LTD.**

LIVERPOOL ADDRESS—10, LORD NELSON STREET.

LONDON ADDRESS—89, GT. EASTERN STREET, E.C.

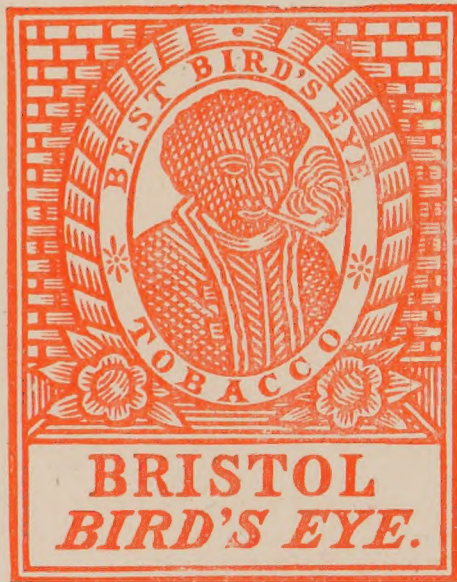


# COPE'S BRISTOL BIRD'S EYE

SOLD IN PACKETS ONLY.

---

(FAC-SIMILE OF LABEL).



PLEASE EXAMINE OUR SIGNATURE

*Cope Brothers & Co.*



& THE TRADE MARK

(FAC-SIMILE OF LABEL).

*TO MAKE A RICH FLAVORED SMOKING MIXTURE WITH  
2oz OF BIRD'S EYE USE 1oz OF COPE'S C.C. CAVENDISH.*

---

When you ask for it,  
See that you get it.

SOLD BY ALL TOBACCONISTS.

---

LONDON ADDRESS :

89, GT. EASTERN STREET, E.C.

LIVERPOOL ADDRESS :

10, LORD NELSON STREET.



A GOOD DOG



AND A GOOD SMOKE.

COPE'S MIXTURE.



Sold by all Tobacconists,  
**COPE'S TOBACCOS,**  
*For "All sorts and conditions of men."*

---

GOLDEN CLOUD.

COPE'S NAVY CUT.

UNION MIXTURE.

COPE'S SMOKING MIXTURE.

COPE'S BRISTOL BIRD'S EYE.

COPE'S CUT CAVENDISH.

OUR MUTUAL FRIEND.

COPE'S BRIGHT VIRGINIA.

COPE'S DARK VIRGINIA.

RIFLE CAKE, FULL FLAVOUR and MILD FLAVOUR.

**MAY FLOWER, Full Flavour.**

**ROSEBUD, Mild Flavour.**

COPE'S GOLDEN SHAG.

COPE'S BRIGHT FLAKE.

THE RIGHT SORT.

All of which are sold in Packets only, 1 oz. and upwards,  
bearing our Registered Trade Marks.

---

TOBACCO WORKS:

10, LORD NELSON STREET, LIVERPOOL.

BRANCH TOBACCO FACTORY:

89, GREAT EASTERN STREET, LONDON, E.C.



# FOREIGN CIGARS.



Messrs. Cope are direct Importers  
from Havana and Manila.

*Monthly lists are posted to Customers on  
request.*

Among the chief Factories represented  
by C. B. & Co.'s choice selection of Havana  
(or Foreign) Cigars may be mentioned:—

Flor de Sainz.	Flor de Murias.
Cabana.	El Favorita.
Larranaga.	La Corona.
Intimidad.	El Brillante.
Villar y Villar.	La Matilde.
Henry Clay.	La Flor de Alvarez.
Hortensia.	La Ley.
La Flor de Cuba.	La Legitmidad.
Figaro.	

## *MANILA CHEROOTS.*

Compania General.	Fortin.
Hensiana.	La Gloria de Filipinas.

## *MANILA CIGARS.*

Compania General.	Flor de la Isabela.
La Hensiana.	Capitan General.
Del Principe.	

*A large stock kept at the Branch:—89,  
Great Eastern Street, London, E.C.*

LIVERPOOL:—10, LORD NELSON STREET.





CHARLES LAMB.



Cope's Smoke Room Booklets.

Number Four.



## Cope's Smoke-Room Booklets.

---

- 1.—THE SMOKER'S TEXT BOOK—*Ready.*
- 2.—THE SMOKER'S GARLAND, Part I.—*Ready.*
- 3.—JAMES THOMSON : Selections from his Contributions to *Cope's Tobacco Plant*—*Ready.*
- 4.—CHARLES LAMB—*Ready.*
- 5.—THOMAS CARLYLE—*Ready.*
- 6.—THE SMOKER'S GARLAND, Part II.—*Ready.*
- 7.—AMBER ; ALL ABOUT IT : from *Cope's Tobacco Plant*—*in preparation.*
- 8.—COPE'S MIXTURE : gathered from his *Tobacco Plant*—*in preparation.*
- 9.—PIPES AND MEERSCHAUM—*in preparation.*
- 10.—THE SMOKER'S GARLAND, Part III.—*Ready.*

---

*Sold by all Tobacconists and Booksellers.*

PRICE 3d. EACH.

Single copies sent, *post free*, direct from the Office  
on receipt of Threepence in postage stamps.

Prospectus *post free* on application.

---

### PREPARING FOR THE PRESS:

OLD TOBACCO PAPERS, *by* JOHN ASHTON.  
*Illustrated with Fac-similies by the Author.*

*Also, a New Edition (brought down to date) of*  
FAIRHOLT'S HISTORY OF TOBACCO.

---

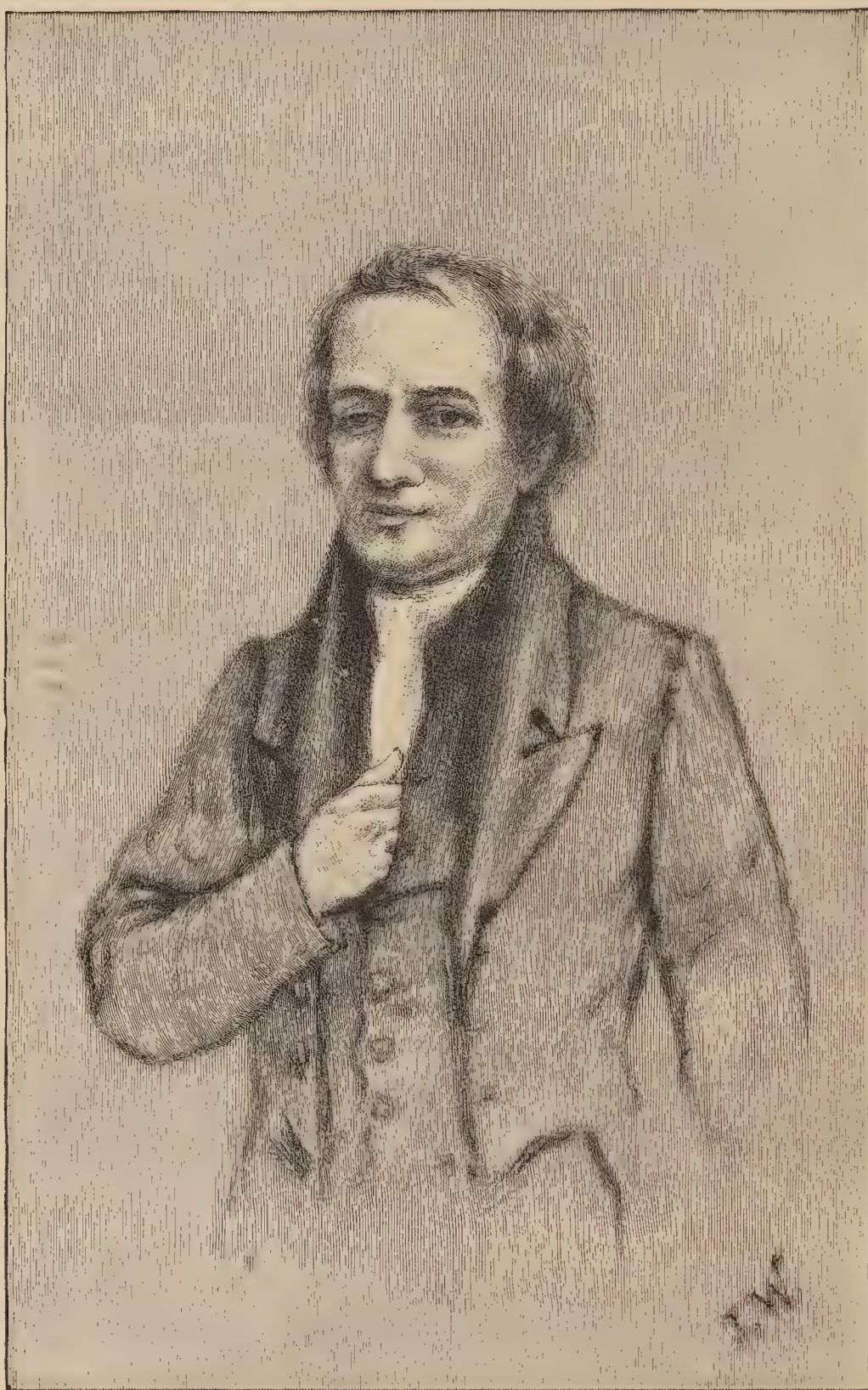
### PUBLISHING OFFICE :

10, LORD NELSON STREET, LIVERPOOL.









CHARLES LAMB.

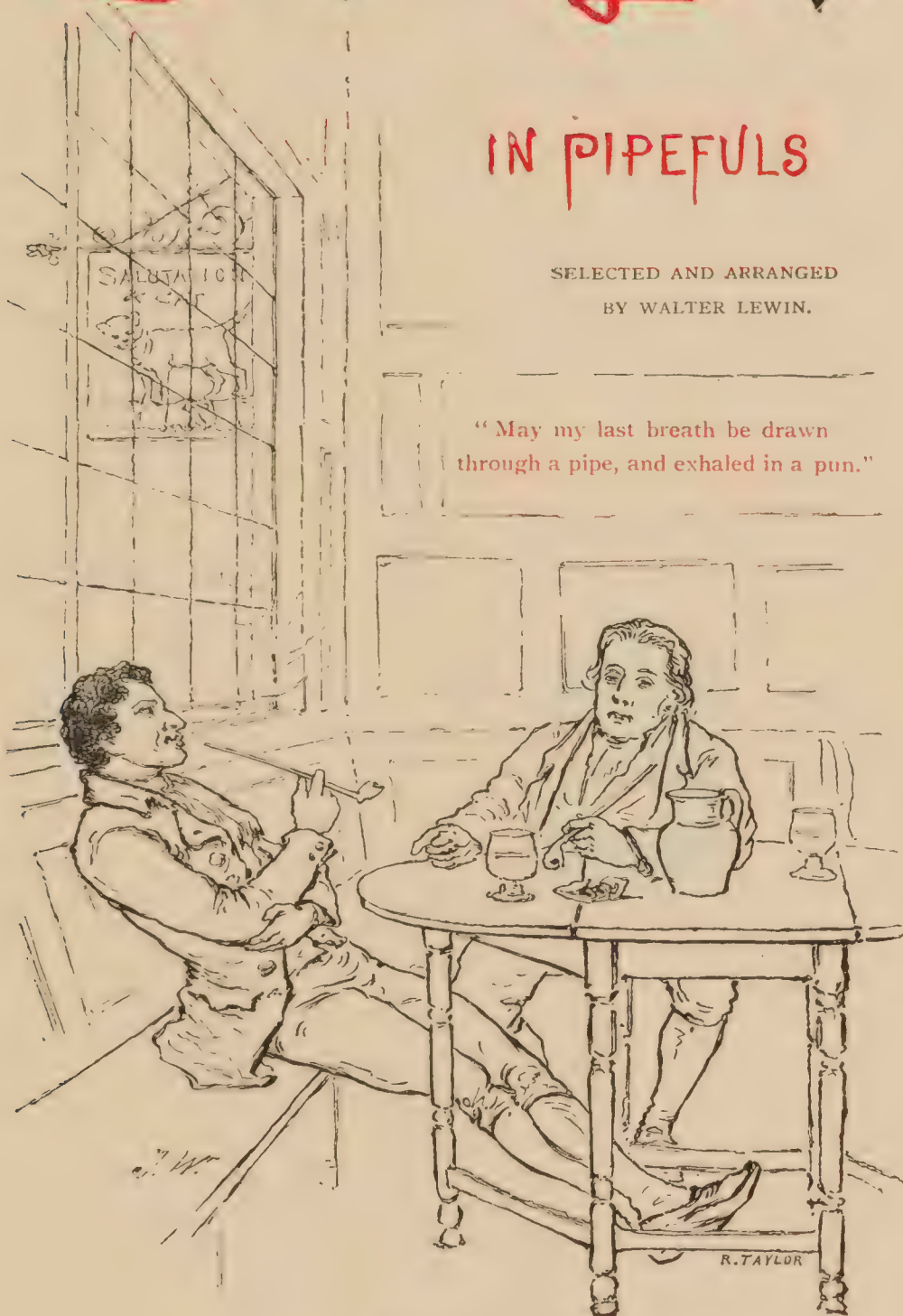


# CHARLES LAMB

## IN PIPEFULS

SELECTED AND ARRANGED  
BY WALTER LEWIN.

"May my last breath be drawn  
through a pipe, and exhaled in a pun."



LIVERPOOL:

AT THE OFFICE OF "COPE'S TOBACCO PLANT."

1890.



DDM/B7 / LHM





## SAINT CHARLES!

“ ‘Saint Charles,’ said Thackeray to me, thirty years ago, putting one of Charles Lamb’s letters to his forehead.”—LETTERS OF EDWARD FITZGERALD.

---

SAINT CHARLES! ah yes, let other men  
Love Elia for his antic pen,  
And watch with dilettante eyes  
His page for every quaint surprise,  
Curious of *caviare* phrase.  
Yea! these who will not also praise?  
We surely must, but which is more  
The motley that his sorrow wore,  
Or the great heart whose valorous beat  
Upheld his brave unfaltering feet  
Along the narrow path he chose,  
And followed faithful to the close?

Yea, Elia, thank thee for thy wit,  
How poor our laughter, lacking it!  
For all thy gillyflowers of speech  
Gramercy, Elia; but most rich  
Are we, most holpen, when we meet  
Thee and thy Bridget in the street,  
Upon that tearful errand set—  
So often trod, so patient yet!

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE.







CHARLES LAMB, dear to the hearts of Englishmen, is one of the sweetest and most lovable figures in the annals of literature. The very sound of his name, recalling as it does his many quaint turns upon it, seems akin to smiles and tears. His is a rare instance of the combination of a keen critical faculty with a tenderness and bright humour which made it impossible for him to be cruel. Oaths fell from his mouth with a gentleness and sweetness which the blessings of other men cannot reach. His *Essays of Elia* are full of this bright humour, this tender criticism. A ripple of pleasant laughter runs through them, just broken here and there by a sob.

It is in his private life that we must look for the explanation of his desperate brightness, always quivering on the verge of tears. Who does not know the story of his brave acceptance of the terrible grief and anxiety which overshadowed his life. The sweet figure of his sister, Mary Lamb, stands always by his side, saved to the world by his love and family devotion. Their mutual love—their brave mutual support in trials almost too great to be endured—their simply confessed failings and weaknesses—their kindly friendship with Coleridge, Wordsworth, and many other men of mark—all these things make them familiar figures, and very dear and familiar they should be, at every English fireside; for the ideal of the home was carried out by Charles Lamb through difficulties before which most of us would shrink.

One is grateful for the happy little country jaunts, for the pipe and the friendly suppers, which relieved the over tension of his nerves, and helped him to contribute his unique quota to English literature.







# CHARLES LAMB

*Born February 10, 1775.*

*Christ's Hospital, October, 1782--November, 1789.*

*East India House about 1792.*

TO COLERIDGE, 1796. I image to myself the little smoky-room at the *Salutation and Cat*, where we have sat together through the winter nights, beguiling the cares of life with Poesy. When you left London I felt a dismal void in my heart. I found myself cut off, at one and the same time, from two most dear to me. "How blest with ye the path could I have trod of quiet life!" In your conversation you had blended so many pleasant fancies that they cheated me of my grief. But in your absence the tide of melancholy rushed in again, and did its worst mischief by overwhelming my reason. I have recovered, but feel a stupor that makes me indifferent to the hopes and fears of this life. I sometimes wish to introduce a religious turn of mind; but habits are strong things, and my religious fervours are confined, alas! to some fleeting moments of occasional solitary devotion. A correspondence, opening with you, has roused me a little from my lethargy, and made me conscious of existence. Indulge me in it: I will not be very troublesome. At some future time I will amuse you with an account, as full as my memory will permit, of the strange turn my frenzy took. I look back upon it at times with a gloomy kind of envy; for, while it lasted, I had many, many hours of pure happiness. Dream not, Coleridge, of having tasted all the grandeur and wildness of fancy till you have gone mad!

TO COLERIDGE, 1797. Books are to me instead of friends. I wish they did not resemble the latter in their scarceness.



TO SOUTHEY, Peter Pindar hath very prettily apostrophised  
 1799. a fly; Burns hath his mouse and his louse;  
 Coleridge less successfully hath made overtures of intimacy to a jackass, therein only following, at unressembling distance, Sterne, and greater Cervantes. Besides these, I know of no other examples of breaking down the partition between us and our "poor earth-born companions." It is sometimes revolting to be put in a track of feeling by other people, not one's own immediate thoughts, else I would persuade you, if I could (I am in earnest), to commence a series of these animals' poems, which might have a tendency to rescue some poor creatures from the antipathy of mankind. Some thoughts came across me: for instance—to a rat, to a toad, to a cockchafer, to a mole. People bake moles alive by a slow oven fire to cure consumption. Rats are, indeed, the most despised and contemptible parts of God's earth. I killed a rat the other day by punching him to pieces, and feel a weight of blood upon me to this hour. Toads you know are made to fly, and tumble down and crush all to pieces. Cockchafers are old sport. Then again to a worm, with an apostrophe to anglers, those patient tyrants, meek inflictors of pangs intolerable, cool devils; to an owl; to all snakes, with an apology for their poison; to a cat in boots or bladders. Your own fancy, if it takes a fancy to these hints, will suggest many more. A series of such poems, suppose them accompanied with plates descriptive of animal torments, cooks roasting lobsters, fishmongers crimping skates, etc., etc., would take excessively. I will willingly enter into a partnership in the plan with you: I think my heart and soul would go with it too—at least, give it a thought. My plan is but this minute come into my head; but it strikes me instantaneously as something new, good, and useful, full of pleasure, and full of moral. If old Quarles and Wither could live again, we would invite them into our firm. Burns hath done his part.

TO SOUTHEY, A moral should be wrought into the body and  
 1799. soul, the matter and tendency of a poem, not tagged to the end, like a "God send the good ship into harbour," at the conclusion of our bills of lading.



TO SOUTHEY, An idea for Leviathan: Commentators on  
1799. Job have been puzzled to find out a meaning  
for Leviathan. 'Tis a whale, say some; a crocodile, say  
others. In my simple conjecture, Leviathan is neither  
more nor less than the Lord Mayor of London for the  
time being.

TO COLERIDGE, For God's sake (I never was more serious)  
1800. don't make me ridiculous any more by  
terming me gentle-hearted in print, or do it in better  
verses. It did well enough five years ago when I came  
to see you, and was moral coxcomb enough at the time  
you wrote the lines, to feed upon such epithets; but,  
besides that, the meaning of "gentle" is equivocal at  
best, and almost always means poor-spirited; the very  
quality of gentleness is abhorrent to such vile trumpeting.  
My *sentiment* is long since vanished. I hope my *virtues*  
have done *sucking*. I can scarce think but you meant  
it in joke. I hope you did, for I should be ashamed to  
believe that you could think to gratify me by such praise,  
fit only to be a cordial to some green-sick sonneteer.

TO GODWIN, Dear Sir,—I send this speedily after the  
1800. heels of Cooper (O! the dainty expression)  
to say that Mary is obliged to stay at home on Sunday to  
receive a female friend, from whom I am equally glad to  
escape. So that we shall be by ourselves. I write, because  
it may make *some* difference in your marketing, etc.

I am sorry to put you to the expense of twopence post-  
age. But I calculate thus: if Mary comes she will—

eat Beef 2 plates,	. 4d.	
Batter Pudding 1 do.	. 2d.	
Beer, a pint,	. 2d.	
Wine, 3 glasses,	. 11d.	I drink no wine.
Chesnuts, after dinner,	. 2d.	
Tea and supper at moderate calculation,	. 9d.	

---

2s. 6d.

From which deduct 2d. postage.

---

2s. 4d.

You are a clear gainer by her not coming.



TO WORDSWORTH, 1801. I ought before this to have replied to your very kind invitation into Cumberland. With you and your sister I could gang anywhere; but I am afraid whether I shall ever be able to afford so desperate a journey. Separate from the pleasure of your company, I don't much care if I never see a mountain in my life. I have passed all my days in London, until I have formed as many and intense local attachments as any of you mountaineers can have done with dead Nature. The lighted shops of the Strand and Fleet Street; the innumerable trades, tradesmen, and customers, coaches, waggons, playhouses; all the bustle and wickedness round about Covent Garden; the very women of the Town; the watchmen, drunken scenes, rattles, life awake, if you awake, at all hours of the night; the impossibility of being dull in Fleet Street; the crowds, the very dirt and mud, the sun shining upon houses and pavements, the print-shops, the old bookstalls, parsons cheapening books, coffee-houses, steams of soups from kitchens, the pantomimes—London itself a pantomime and a masquerade—all these things work themselves into my mind, and feed me, without a power of satiating me. The wonder of these sights impels me into night-walks about her crowded streets, and I often shed tears in the motley Strand from fulness of joy at so much life. All these emotions must be strange to you; so are your rural emotions to me. But consider, what must I have been doing all my life, not to have lent great portions of my heart with usury to such scenes?

My attachments are all local, purely local. I have no passion (or have had none since I was in love, and then it was the spurious engendering of poetry and books) for groves and valleys. The rooms where I was born, the furniture which has been before my eyes all my life, a bookcase which has followed me about like a faithful dog (only exceeding him in knowledge), wherever I have moved, old chairs, old tables, streets, squares, where I have sunned myself, my old school,—these are my mistresses. Have I not enough, without your mountains? I do not envy you. I should pity you, did I not know that the mind will make friends of anything. Your sun, and moon, and skies, and hills, and lakes, affect me no more, or scarcely come to me in more venerable characters,



than as a gilded room with tapestry and tapers, where I might live with handsome visible objects. I consider the clouds above me but as a roof beautifully painted, but unable to satisfy the mind : and at last, like the pictures of the apartment of a connoisseur, unable to afford him any longer a pleasure. So fading upon me, from disuse, have been the beauties of Nature, as they have been confinedly called ; so ever fresh, and green, and warm are all the inventions of men, and assemblies of men in this great city.

TO THOMAS MANNING, 1802. I set out with Mary to Keswick, without giving Coleridge any notice, for my time, being precious, did not admit of it. He received us with all the hospitality in the world, and gave up his time to show us all the wonders of the country. He dwells upon a small hill by the side of Keswick, in a comfortable house, quite enveloped on all sides by a net of mountains : great floundering bears and monsters they seemed, all couchant and asleep. We got in in the evening, travelling in a post-chaise from Penrith, in the midst of a gorgeous sunshine, which transmuted all the mountains into colours, purple, etc., etc. We thought we had got into fairyland. But that went off (as it never came again ; while we stayed we had no more fine sunsets), and we entered Coleridge's comfortable study just in the dusk, when the mountains were all dark with clouds upon their heads. Such an impression I never received from objects of sight before, nor do I suppose I can ever again. Glorious creatures, fine old fellows, Skiddaw, etc. I never shall forget ye, how ye lay about that night, like an intrenchment ; gone to bed, as it seemed for the night, but promising that ye were to be seen in the morning. Coleridge had got a blazing fire in his study ; which is a large antique, ill-shaped room, with an old-fashioned organ, never played upon, big enough for a church, shelves of scattered folios, an Æolian harp, and an old sofa, half bed, etc. And all looking out upon the last fading view of Skiddaw, and his broad-breasted brethren : what a night ! Here we stayed three full weeks, in which time I visited Wordsworth's cottage, where we stayed a day or two with the Clarksons (good people, and most hospitable, at whose house we tarried one day and night), and saw Lloyd. The Wordsworths were gone to Calais.



They have since been in London, and past much time with us: he is now gone into Yorkshire to be married. So we have seen Keswick, Grasmere, Ambleside, Ulswater (where the Clarksons live), and a place at the other end of Ulswater; I forget the name; to which we travelled on a very sultry day, over the middle of Helvellyn. We have clambered up to the top of Skiddaw, and I have waded up the bed of Lodore. In fine, I have satisfied myself that there is such a thing as that which tourists call *romantic*, which I very much suspected before: they make such a spluttering about it, and toss their splendid epithets around them, till they give as dim a light as at four o'clock next morning the lamps do after an illumination. Mary was excessively tired when she got about half-way up Skiddaw, but we came to a cold rill (than which nothing can be imagined more cold, running over cold stones), and with the reinforcement of a draught of cold water she surmounted it most manfully. Oh, its fine black head, and the bleak air atop of it, with a prospect of mountains all about and about, making you giddy; and then Scotland afar off, and the border countries so famous in song and ballad! It was a day that will stand out, like a mountain, I am sure, in my life. But I am returned (I have now been come home near three weeks; I was a month out), and you cannot conceive the degradation I felt at first, from being accustomed to wander free as air among mountains, and bathe in rivers without being controlled by any one, to come home and *work*. I felt very *little*. I had been dreaming I was a very great man. But that is going off, and I find I shall conform in time to that state of life to which it has pleased God to call me. Besides, after all, Fleet Street and the Strand are better places to live in for good and all than amidst Skiddaw. Still, I turn back to those great places where I wandered about, participating in their greatness. After all, I could not *live* in Skiddaw. I could spend a year, two, three years among them, but I must have a prospect of seeing Fleet Street at the end of that time, or I should mope and pine away, I know. Still, Skiddaw is a fine creature. My habits are changing, I think, *i.e.* from drunk to sober. Whether I shall be happier or not remains to be proved. I shall certainly be more happy in a morning; but whether I shall not sacrifice the fat,



and the marrow, and the kidneys, *i.e.* the night, glorious care-drowning night, that heals all our wrongs, pours wine into our mortifications, changes the scene from indifferent and flat to bright and brilliant! O Manning, if I should have formed a diabolical resolution, by the time you come to England, of not admitting any spiritous liquor into my house, will you be my guest on such shameworthy terms? Is life, with such limitations, worth trying? The truth is, that my liquors bring a nest of friendly harpies about my house, who consume me. This is a pitiful tale to be read at St. Gothard, but it is just now nearest my heart. Fenwick is a ruined man. He is hiding himself from his creditors, and has sent his wife and children into the country. Fell, my other drunken companion (that has been: *nam hic cæstus artemque repono*), is turned editor of a Naval Chronicle. Godwin continues a steady friend, though the same facility does not remain of visiting him often. That . . . has detached Marshall from his house; Marshall, the man who went to sleep when the "Ancient Mariner" was reading; the old, steady, unalterable friend of the Professor. Holcroft is not yet come to town. I expect to see him, and will deliver your message. Things come crowding in to say, and no room for 'em. Some things are too little to be told, *i.e.* to have a preference; some are too big and circumstantial. Thanks for yours, which was most delicious. Would I had been with you, benighted, etc.! I fear my head is turned with wandering. I shall never be the same acquiescent being. Farewell. Write again quickly, for I shall not like to hazard a letter, not knowing where the fates have carried you. Farewell, my dear fellow.

TO COLERIDGE, 1802. If you find the Miltons in certain parts dirtied and soiled with a crumb of right Gloucester, blacked in the candle (my usual supper), or peradventure a stray ash of tobacco wafted into the crevices, look to that passage more especially: depend upon it, it contains good matter.

TO COLERIDGE, 1802. I am glad the snuff and Pi-pos's books please. "Goody Two Shoes" is almost out of print. Mrs. Barbauld's stuff has banished all the

old classics of the nursery; and the shopman at Newberry's hardly deigned to reach them off an old exploded corner of a shelf, when Mary asked for them. Mrs. Barbauld's and Mrs. Trimmer's nonsense lay in piles about. Knowledge insignificant and vapid as Mrs. Barbauld's books convey, it seems, must come to a child in the *shape of knowledge*; and his empty noddle must be turned with conceit of his own powers when he has learnt that a horse is an animal, and Billy is better than a horse, and such like; instead of that beautiful interest in wild tales, which made the child a man, while all the time he suspected himself to be no bigger than a child. Science has succeeded to poetry no less in the little walks of children than with men. Is there no possibility of averting this sore evil? Think what you would have been now, if, instead of being fed with tales and old wives' fables in childhood, you had been crammed with geography and natural history!

Hang them!—I mean the cursed Barbauld crew, those blights and blasts of all that is human in man and child.

TO THOMAS MANNING, I have often wished I had lived in  
1802. the golden age, when shepherds lay stretched upon flowers, and roused themselves at their leisure,—the genius there is in a man's natural idle face, that has not learned his multiplication table! before doubt, and propositions and corollaries got into the world.

TO COLERIDGE, What do you think of smoking? I want  
1803. your sober, *average, noon opinion* of it. I generally am eating my dinner about the time I should determine it.

Morning is a girl, and can't smoke—she's no evidence one way or the other; and Night is so evidently *bought over*, that he can't be a very upright judge. May be the truth is, that *one* pipe is wholesome, *two* pipes toothsome, *three* pipes noisome, *four* pipes fulsome, *five* pipes quarrelsome, and that's the *sum* on't. But that is deciding rather upon rhyme than reason. . . . After all, our instincts *may* be best. Wine, I am sure,—good mellow, generous Port—can hurt nobody, unless those who take it to excess, which they may easily avoid if they observe the rules of temperance. . . .



When shall we two smoke again? Last night I had been in a sad quandary of spirits, in what they call the evening; but a pipe, and some generous Port, and *King Lear* (being alone), had their effects as solacers. I went to bed pot-valiant.

TO THOMAS MANNING, Dear Archimedes,—Things have gone  
July, 1805. on badly with thy ungeometrical friend; but they are on the turn. My old housekeeper has shown signs of convalescence, and will shortly resume the power of the keys, so I shan't be cheated of my tea and liquors. Wind in the West, which promotes tranquility. Have leisure now to anticipate seeing thee again. Have been taking leave of tobacco in a rhyming address. Had thought *that vein* had long since closed up. Find I can rhyme and reason too. Think of studying mathematics, to restrain the fire of my genius, which G. D. recommends. Have frequent bleedings at the nose, which shows plethoric. Maybe shall try the sea myself, that great scene of wonders. Got incredibly sober and regular; shave oftener, and hum a tune, to signify cheerfulness and gallantry.

Suddenly disposed to sleep, having taken a quart of pease with bacon and stout. Will not refuse Nature, who has done such things for me!

Nurse! don't call me unless Mr. Manning comes.—What! the gentleman in spectacles?—Yes.

Saturday—Hot noon. *Dormit.*

TO THOMAS MANNING, I have been very unwell since I saw  
1805. you: a sad depression of spirits, a most unaccountable nervousness; from which I have been partially relieved by an odd accident. You knew Dick Hopkins, the swearing scullion of Caius? This fellow, by industry and agility, has thrust himself into the important situations (no sinecures, believe me) of cook to Trinity Hall and Caius College: and the generous creature has contrived, with the greatest delicacy imaginable, to send me a present of Cambridge brawn. What makes it the more extraordinary is, that the man never saw me in his life that I know of. I suppose he has *heard* of me. I did not immediately recognise the donor; but one of Richard's cards, which had accidentally fallen into the straw, detected him in a moment. Dick, you

know, was always remarkable for flourishing. His card imports, that "orders (to wit, for brawn) from any part of England, Scotland, or Ireland, will be duly executed," etc. At first, I thought of declining the present; but Richard knew my blind side when he pitched upon brawn. 'Tis of all my hobbies the supreme in the eating way. He might have sent sops from the pan, skimmings, crumpets, chips, hog's lard, the tender brown judiciously scalped from a fillet of veal (dexterously replaced by a salamander), the tops of asparagus, fugitive livers, runaway gizzards of fowls, the eyes of martyred pigs, tender effusions of laxative woodcocks, the red spawn of lobsters, leverets' ears, and such pretty filchings common to cooks; but these had been ordinary presents, the everyday courtesies of dish-washers to their sweethearts. Brawn was a noble thought. It is not every common gullet-fancier that can properly esteem it. It is like a picture of one of the choice old Italian masters. Its gusto is of that hidden sort. As Wordsworth sings of a modest poet,—“you must love him, ere to you he will seem worthy of your love;” so brawn, you must taste it ere to you it will seem to have any taste at all. But 'tis nuts to the adept: those that will send out their tongue and feelers to find it out. It will be wooed, and not unsought be won. Now, ham-essence, lobsters, turtle, such popular minions, absolutely *court you*, lay themselves out to strike you at first smack, like one of David's pictures (they call him *Darveed*) compared with the plain russet-coated wealth of a Titian or a Correggio, as I illustrated above. Such are the obvious glaring heathen virtues of a corporation dinner, compared with the reserved collegiate worth of brawn. Do me the favour to leave off the business which you may be at present upon, and go immediately to the kitchens of Trinity and Caius, and make my most respectful compliments to Mr. Richard Hopkins, and assure him that his brawn is most excellent; and that I am moreover obliged to him for his innuendo about salt water and bran, which I shall not fail to improve. I leave it to you whether you shall choose to pay him the civility of asking him to dinner while you stay in Cambridge, or in whatever other way you may best like to show your gratitude to *my friend*. Richard Hopkins, considered in many points of view, is a very extraordinary



character. Adieu. I hope to see you to supper in London soon, where we will taste Richard's brawn, and drink his health in a cheerful but moderate cup. We have not many such men in any rank of life as Mr. R. Hopkins. Crisp, the barber, of St. Mary's, was just such another. I wonder *he* never sent me any little token, some chesnuds, or a puff, or two pound of hair: just to remember him by. Gifts are like nails. *Præsens ut absens*; that is, your *present* makes amends for your absence.

TO MISS WORDSWORTH,  
1805.

Your long kind letter has not been thrown away (for it has given me great pleasure to find you are all resuming your old occupations, and are better); but poor Mary, to whom it is addressed, cannot yet relish it. She has been attacked by one of her severe illnesses, and is at present *from home*. Last Monday week was the day she left me, and I hope I may calculate upon having her again in a month or little more. I am rather afraid late hours have in this case contributed to her indisposition. But when she discovers symptoms of approaching illness, it is not easy to say what is best to do. Being by ourselves is bad, and going out is bad. I get so irritable and wretched with fear, that I constantly hasten on the disorder. You cannot conceive the misery of such a foresight. I am sure that, for the week before she left me, I was little better than light-headed. I now am calm, but sadly taken down and flat. I have every reason to suppose that this illness, like all her former ones, will be but temporary; but I cannot always feel so. Meantime she is dead to me, and I miss a prop. All my strength is gone, and I am like a fool, bereft of her co-operation. I dare not think, lest I should think wrong; so used am I to look up to her in the least and the biggest perplexity. To say all that I know of her would be more than I think anybody could believe, or even understand; and when I hope to have her well again with me, it would be sinning against her feelings to go about to praise her; for I can conceal nothing that I do from her. She is older and wiser and better than I, and all my wretched imperfections I cover to myself by resolutely thinking on her goodness. She would share life and death, heaven and hell, with me. She lives but for me; and I know I have

been wasting and teasing her life for five years past incessantly with my cursed drinking and ways of going on. But even in this upbraiding of myself I am offending against her, for I know that she has cleaved to me for better, for worse; and if the balance has been against her hitherto, it was a noble trade. I am stupid, and lose myself in what I write. I write rather what answers to my feelings (which are sometimes sharp enough) than express my present ones, for I am only flat and stupid. I am sure you will excuse my writing any more, I am so very poorly.

I cannot resist transcribing three or four lines which poor Mary made upon a picture (a Holy Family) which we saw at an auction only one week before she left home. She was then beginning to show signs of ill boding. They are sweet lines and upon a sweet picture; but I send them only as the last memorial of her.

“VIRGIN AND CHILD, L. DA VINCI.

“Maternal Lady, with thy virgin grace,  
Heaven-born, thy Jesus seemeth sure,  
And thou a virgin pure.  
Lady most perfect, when thy angel face  
Men look upon, they wish to be  
A Catholic, Madonna fair, to worship thee.”

You had her lines about the “Lady Blanch.” You have not had some which she wrote upon a copy of a girl from Titian, which I had hung up where that print of Blanch and the Abbess (as she beautifully interpreted two female figures from L. da Vinci) had hung in our room. ’Tis light and pretty:—

“Who art thou, fair one, who usurp’st the place  
Of Blanch, the lady of the matchless grace?  
Come, fair and pretty, tell to me  
Who in thy lifetime thou mightst be?  
Thou pretty art and fair,  
But with the Lady Blanch thou never must compare.  
No need for Blanch her history to tell,  
Whoever saw her face, they there did read it well;  
But when I look on thee, I only know  
There lived a pretty maid some hundred years ago.”

This is a little unfair, to tell so much about ourselves, and to advert so little to your letter, so full of comfortable tidings of you all. But my own cares press pretty close upon me, and you can make allowance. That you



may go on gathering strength and peace is my next wish to Mary's recovery.

I had almost forgot your repeated invitation. Supposing that Mary will be well and able, there is another *ability* which you may guess at, which I cannot promise myself. In prudence we ought not to come. This illness will make it still more prudential to wait. It is not a balance of this way of spending our money against another way, but an absolute question of whether we shall stop now, or go on wasting away the little we have got beforehand, which my wise conduct has already encroach'd upon one half. My best love, however, to you all ; and to that most friendly creature, Mrs. Clarkson, and better health to her, when you see or write to her.

TO THOMAS MANNING, 1806. Oh Manning, I am serious to sinking almost, when I think that all those evenings which you have made so pleasant, are gone perhaps for ever. Four years, you talk of, may be ten, and you may come back and find such alterations ! Some circumstances may grow up to you or to me, that may be a bar to the return of any such intimacy. I daresay all this is hum ! and that all will come back ; but indeed we die many deaths before we die, and I am almost sick when I think that such a hold as I had of you is gone. I have friends, but some of 'em are changed. Marriage, or some circumstance, rises up to make them not the same. But I felt sure of you. And that last token you gave me of expressing a wish to have my name joined with yours, you know not how it affected me : like a legacy.

TO THOMAS MANNING, 1809. I sent you a long letter by the ships which sailed the beginning of last month, accompanied with books, etc. Since I last wrote Holcroft is dead. He died on Thursday last. So there is one of your friends whom you will never see again ! Perhaps the next fleet may bring you a letter from Martin Burney, to say that he writes by desire of Miss Lamb, who is not well enough to write herself, to inform you that her brother died on Thursday last, 14th June, etc. But I hope *not*. I should be very sorry to give occasion to open a correspondence between Martin and you. This letter must be short, for I have driven it off to the

very moment of doing up the packets ; and besides, that which I refer to above is a very long one ; and if you have received my books, you will have enough to do to read them. While I think on it, let me tell you, we are moved. Don't come any more to Mitre Court Buildings. We are at 34, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, and shall be here till about the end of May ; then we remove to No. 4, Inner Temple Lane, where I mean to live and die ; for I have such horror of moving, that I would not take a benefice from the King if I was not indulged with non-residence. What a dislocation of comfort is comprised in that word "moving !" Such a heap of little nasty things, after you think all is got into the cart : old dredging boxes, worn-out brushes, gallipots, vials, things that is impossible the most necessitous person can ever want, but which the women, who preside on these occasions, will not leave behind if it was to save your soul. They'd keep the cart ten minutes to stow in dirty pipes and broken matches, to show their economy. Then you can find nothing you want for many days after you get into your new lodgings. You must comb your hair with your fingers, wash your hands without soap, go about in dirty gaiters. Were I Diogenes, I would not move out of a kilderkin into a hogshead, though the first had had nothing but small beer in it, and the second reeked claret. Our place of final destination—I don't mean the grave, but No. 4, Inner Temple Lane—looks out upon a gloomy churchyard-like court, called Hare Court, with three trees and a pump in it. Do you know it ? I was born near it, and used to drink at that pump when I was a Rechabite of six years old. If you see newspapers you will read about Mrs. Clarke. The sensation in London about this nonsensical business is marvellous. I remember nothing in my life like it : thousands of ballads, caricatures, lives of Mrs. Clarke, in every blind alley. Yet in the midst of this stir, a sublime abstracted dancing-master, who attends a family we know at Kensington, being asked a question about the progress of the examinations in the House, inquired who Mrs. Clarke was ? He had heard nothing of it. He had evaded this omnipresence by utter insignificancy ! The Duke should make that man his confidential valet. I proposed locking him up, barring him the use of his



fiddle and red pumps, until he had minutely perused and committed to memory the whole body of the examinations, which employed the House of Commons a fortnight, to teach him to be more attentive to what concerns the public. I think I told you of Godwin's little book, and of Coleridge's prospectus, in my last; if I did not, remind me of it, and I will send you them, or an account of them, next fleet. I have no conveniency of doing it by this. Mrs. — grows every day in disfavour with me. I will be buried with this inscription over me:—"Here lies C. L., the woman-hater;" I mean that hated one woman: for the rest, God bless them! How do you like the Mandarinesses? Are you on some little footing with any of them? This is Wednesday. On Wednesdays is my levee. The Captain, Martin, Phillips (not the Sheriff), Rickman, and some more, are constant attendants, besides stray visitors. We play at whist, eat cold meat and hot potatoes, and any gentleman that chooses smokes. Why do you never drop in? You'll come some day, won't you?

TO COLERIDGE,  
1809. I congratulate you on the appearance of the *Friend*. Your first Number promises well, and I have no doubt the succeeding Numbers will fulfil the promise. I had a kind letter from you some time since, which I have left unanswered. I am also obliged to you, I believe, for a review in the Annual, am I not? The *Monthly Review* sneers at me, and asks "if *Comus* is not *good enough* for Mr. Lamb?" because I have said no good serious dramas have been written since the death of Charles the First, except *Samson Agonistes*. So because they do not know, or won't remember, that *Comus* was written long before, I am to be set down as an undervaluer of Milton! O Coleridge, do kill those reviews, or they will kill us; kill all we like. Be a friend to all else, but their foe. I have been turned out of my chambers in the Temple by a landlord who wanted them for himself, but I have got other at No. 4, Inner Temple Lane; far more commodious and roomy. I have two rooms on the third floor and five rooms above, with an inner staircase to myself, and all new painted, etc., and all for £30 a year! I came into them on Saturday week; and on Monday following Mary was taken ill with

the fatigue of moving; and affected, I believe, by the novelty of the home she could not sleep, and I am left alone with a maid quite a stranger to me, and she has a month or two's sad distraction to go through. What sad large pieces it cuts out of life!—out of *her* life, who is getting rather old; and we may not have many years to live together. I am weaker, and bear it worse than I ever did. But I hope we shall be comfortable by and by. The rooms are delicious, and the best look backwards into Hare Court, where there is a pump always going. Just now it is dry. Hare Court trees come in at the window, so that 'tis like living in a garden. I try to persuade myself it is much pleasanter than Mitre Court; but, alas! the household gods are slow to come in a new mansion. They are in their infancy to me; I do not feel them yet; no hearth has blazed to them yet. How I hate and dread new places!

TO COLERIDGE,      The account of Luther in the Warteburg\*  
1809.                      is as fine as anything I ever read. God forbid that a man who has such things to say should be silenced for want of £100. This Custom-and-Duty Age would have made the Preacher on the Mount take out a licence, and St. Paul's Epistles would not have been missible without a stamp. O that you may find means to go on!

TO BASIL MONTAGUE,      We propose setting out for Oxford  
1810.                      Tuesday fortnight, and coming thereby home. But no more night travelling. My head is sore (understand it of the inside) with that deduction from my natural rest which I suffered coming down. Neither Mary nor I can spare a morsel of our rest: it is incumbent on us to be misers of it. Travelling is not good for us, we travel so seldom. If the sun be hell, it is not for the fire, but for the sempiternal motion of that miserable body of light. How much more dignified leisure hath a mussel glued to his unpassable rocky limit two inch square! He hears the tide roll over him, backwards and forwards twice a day (as the Salisbury long coach goes and returns in eight-and-forty hours), but knows better than to take an outside place a top on't. He is the owl of the sea—Minerva's fish—the fish of wisdom.

---

\* By Coleridge, in *The Friend*.



TO WORDSWORTH,  
1810.

Ditton-upon-Thames has been blessed by the residence of a poet, who for love or money—I do not well know which—has dignified every gravestone, for the last few years, with bran-new verses, all different, and all ingenious, with the author's name at the bottom of each. This sweet swan of Thames has so artfully diversified his strains and his rhymes, that the same thought never occurs twice; more justly, perhaps, as no thought ever occurs at all, there was a physical impossibility that the same thought should recur. It is long since I saw and read these inscriptions, but I remember the impression was of a smug usher at his desk in the intervals of instruction, levelling his pen. Of death, as it consists of dust and worms, and mourners and uncertainty, he had never thought; but the word "death" he had often seen separate and conjunct with other words, till he had learned to speak of all its attributes as glibly as Unitarian Belsham will discuss you the attributes of the word "God" in a pulpit; and will talk of infinity with a tongue that dangles from a skull that never reached in thought and thorough imagination two inches, or further than from his hand to his mouth, or from the vestry to the sounding-board of the pulpit.

But the epitaphs were trim, and sprag, and patent, and pleased the survivors of Thames-Ditton above the old mumpsimus of "Afflictions Sore." . . . To do justice though, it must be owned that even the excellent feeling which dictated this dirge when new must have suffered something in passing through so many thousand applications, many of them no doubt quite misplaced, as I have seen in Islington churchyard (I think) an epitaph to an infant who died "*Ætatis* four months," with this seasonable inscription appended, "Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long in the land," etc.

TO WORDSWORTH,  
1815.

I was agreeably removed from that scruple by the laundress knocking at my door this morning, almost before I was up, with a present of fruit from my young friend, etc. There is something inexpressibly pleasant to me in these *presents*, be it fruit, or fowl, or brawn, or *what not*. Books are a legitimate cause of acceptance. If presents be not the soul of friendship, undoubtedly they are the most spiritual part

of the body of that intercourse. There is too much narrowness of thinking in this point. The punctilio of acceptance, methinks, is too confined and strait-laced. I could be content to receive money, or clothes, or a joint of meat from a friend. Why should he not send me a dinner as well as a dessert? I would taste him in the beasts of the field, and through all creation. Therefore did the basket of fruit of the juvenile Talfourd not displease me ; not that I have any thoughts of bartering or reciprocating these things. To send him anything in return, would be to reflect suspicion of mercenariness upon what I know he meant a freewill offering. Let him overcome me in bounty. In this strife a generous nature loves to be overcome.

TO SOUTHEY, 1815. I was at Hazlitt's marriage, and had like to have been turned out several times during the ceremony. Anything awful makes me laugh. I misbehaved once at a funeral. Yet I can read about these ceremonies with pious and proper feelings. The realities of life only seem the mockeries.

TO SOUTHEY, 1815. After all, Buonaparte is a fine fellow, as my barber says, and I should not mind standing bareheaded at his table to do him service in his fall. They should have given him Hampton Court or Kensington, with a tether extending forty miles round London. Qu. Would not the people have ejected the Brunswicks someday in his favour?

TO MISS HUTCHINSON, 1815. I am forced to be the replier to your letter, for Mary has been ill, and gone from home these five weeks yesterday. She has left me very lonely and very miserable. I stroll about, but there is no rest but at one's own fireside, and there is no rest for me there now. I look forward to the worse half being past, and keep up as well as I can. She has begun to show some favourable symptoms. The return of her disorder has been frightfully soon this time, with scarce a six months' interval. I am almost afraid my worry of spirits about the E. I. House was partly the cause of her illness, but one always imputes it to the cause next at hand ; more probably it comes from some cause we have no control over or conjecture of. It cuts sad great slices out of the time, the little time, we shall have to live



together. I don't know but the recurrence of these illnesses might help me to sustain her death better than if we had had no partial separations. But I won't talk of death. I will imagine us immortal, or forget that we are otherwise. By God's blessing, in a few weeks we may be making our meal together, or sitting in the front row of the Pit at Drury Lane, or taking our evening walk past the theatres, to look at the outside of them, at least, if not to be tempted in. Then we forget we are assailable; we are strong for the time as rocks;—"the wind is tempered to the shorn Lambs."

TO THOMAS MANNING,  
1815.

Dear old Friend and absentee—This is Christmas Day 1815 with us; what it may be with you I don't know, the 12<sup>th</sup> of June next year perhaps; and if it should be the consecrated season with you, I don't see how you can keep it. You have no turkeys; you would not desecrate the festival by offering up a withered Chinese bantam, instead of the savoury grand Norfolcian holocaust, that smokes all around my nostrils at this moment from a thousand firesides. Then what puddings have you? Where will you get holly to stick in your churches, or churches to stick your dried tea-leaves (that must be the substitute) in? What memorials you can have of the holy time, I see not. A chopped missionary or two may keep up the thin idea of Lent and the wilderness; but what standing evidence have you of the Nativity? 'Tis our rosy-cheeked, home-stalled divines, whose faces shine to the tune of "Unto us a child was born," faces fragrant with the mince-pies of half a century, that alone can authenticate the cheerful mystery. I feel my bowels refreshed with the holy tide; my zeal is great against the unedified heathen. Down with the Pagodas—down with the idols—Ching-chong-fo—and his foolish priesthood! Come out of Babylon, O my friend! for her time is come; and the child that is native, and the Proselyte of her gates, shall kindle and smoke together! And in sober sense what makes you so long from among us, Manning? You must not expect to see the same England again which you left.

Empires have been overturned, crowns trodden into dust, the face of the western world quite changed. Your friends have all got old—those you left blooming; myself

(who am one of the few that remember you), those golden hairs which you recollect my taking a pride in, turned to silvery and gray. Mary has been dead and buried many years : she desired to be buried in the silk gown you sent her. Rickman, that you remember active and strong, now walks out supported by a servant maid and a stick. Martin Burney is a very old man. The other day an aged woman knocked at my door, and pretended to my acquaintance. It was long before I had the most distant cognition of her ; but at last, together, we made her out to be Louisa, the daughter of Mrs. Topham, formerly Mrs. Morton, who had been Mrs. Reynolds, formerly Mrs. Kenney, whose first husband was Holcroft, the dramatic writer of the last century. St. Paul's Church is a heap of ruins ; the Monument isn't half so high as you knew it, divers parts being successively taken down which the ravages of time had rendered dangerous ; the horse at Charing Cross is gone, no one knows whither ; and all this has taken place while you have been settling whether Ho-hing-tong should be spelt with a —, or a —. For aught I see you might almost as well remain where you are, and not come like a Struldbrug into a world where few were born when you went away. Scarce here and there one will be able to make out your face. All your opinions will be out of date, your jokes obsolete, your puns rejected with fastidiousness as wit of the last age. Your way of mathematics has already given way to a new method, which after all is I believe the old doctrine of Maclaurin, new-vamped up with what he borrowed of the negative quantity of fluxions from Euler.

Poor Godwin ! I was passing his tomb the other day in Cripplegate churchyard. There are some verses upon it written by Miss —, which if I thought good enough I would send you. He was one of those who would have hailed your return, not with boisterous shouts and clamours, but with the complacent gratulations of a philosopher anxious to promote knowledge as leading to happiness ; but his systems and his theories are ten feet deep in Cripplegate mould. Coleridge is just dead, having lived just long enough to close the eyes of Wordsworth, who paid the debt to Nature but a week or two before. Poor Col., but two days before he died he wrote to a bookseller, proposing an epic poem on the "Wander-



ings of Cain," in twenty-four books. It is said he has left behind him more than forty thousand treatises in criticism, metaphysics, and divinity, but few of them in a state of completion. They are now destined, perhaps, to wrap up spices. You see what mutations the busy hand of Time has produced, while you have consumed in foolish voluntary exile that time which might have gladdened your friends—benefited your country; but reproaches are useless. Gather up the wretched reliques, my friend, as fast as you can, and come to your old home, I will rub my eyes, and try to recognise you. We will shake withered hands together, and talk of old things—of St. Mary's Church and the barber's opposite, where the young students in mathematics used to assemble. Poor Crips, that kept it afterwards, set up a fruiterer's shop in Trumpington Street, and for aught I know resides there still, for I saw the name up in the last journey I took there with my sister just before she died. I suppose you heard that I had left the India House, and gone into the Fishmongers' Almshouses over the bridge. I have a little cabin there, small and homely, but you shall be welcome to it. You like oysters, and to open them yourself; I'll get you some if you come in oyster time. Marshall, Godwin's old friend, is still alive, and talks of the faces you used to make.

Come as soon as you can.

TO THOMAS MANNING, Following your brother's example, I  
1815.

have just ventured one letter to Canton, and am now hazarding another (not exactly a duplicate) to St. Helena. The first was full of unprobable romantic fictions, fitting the remoteness of the mission it goes upon; in the present I mean to confine myself nearer to truth as you come nearer home. A correspondence with the uttermost parts of the earth necessarily involves in it some heat of fancy; it sets the brain agoing, but I can think on the half-way house tranquilly. Your friends then are not all dead or grown forgetful of you through old age, as that lying letter asserted, anticipating rather what must happen if you kept tarrying on for ever on the skirts of creation, as there seemed a danger of your doing; but they are all tolerably well and in full and perfect comprehension of what is meant by Manning's coming

home again. Mrs. Kenney never lets her tongue run riot more than in remembrances of you. Fanny expends herself in phrases that can only be justified by her romantic nature. Mary reserves a portion of your silk, not to be buried in (as the false nuncio asserts), but to make up spick and span into a bran-new gown to wear when you come. I am the same as when you knew me, almost to a surfeiting identity. This very night I am going to *leave off tobacco*! Surely there must be some other world in which this unconquerable purpose shall be realised. The soul hath not her generous aspirings implanted in her in vain. One that you knew, and I think the only one of those friends we knew much of in common, has died in earnest. Poor Priscilla! Her brother Robert is also dead, and several of the grown-up brothers and sisters, in the compass of a very few years. Death has not otherwise meddled much in families that I know. Not but he has his eye upon us, and is whetting his feathered dart every instant, as you see him truly pictured in that impressive moral picture, "The good man at the hour of death." I have in trust to put in the post four letters from Diss, and one from Lynn, to St. Helena, which I hope will accompany this safe, and one from Lynn, and the one before spoken of from me, to Canton. But we all hope that these letters may be waste paper. I don't know why I have forborne writing so long; but it is such a forlorn hope to send a scrap of paper straggling over wide oceans! And yet I know, when you come home, I shall have you sitting before me at our fireside just as if you had never been away. In such an instant does the return of a person dissipate all the weight of imaginary perplexity from distance of time and space! I'll promise you good oysters. Corry is dead that kept the shop opposite St. Dunstan's; but the tougher materials of the shop survive the perishing frame of its keeper. Oysters continue to flourish there under as good auspices. Poor Corry! but if you will absent yourself twenty years together, you must not expect numerically the same population to congratulate your return which wetted the sea-beach with their tears when you went away. Have you recovered the breathless stone-staring astonishment into which you must have been thrown upon learning at landing that an Emperor



of France was living in St. Helena? What an event in the solitude of the seas! like finding a fish's bone at the top of Plinlimmon; but these things are nothing in our western world. Novelties cease to affect. Come and try what your presence can.

TO WORDSWORTH, Coleridge is printing "Christabel," by  
1816.

Lord Byron's recommendation to Murray, with what he calls a vision, "Kubla Khan," which said vision he repeats so enchantingly that it irradiates and brings heaven and elysian bowers into my parlour while he sings or says it; but there is an observation, "Never tell thy dreams," and I am almost afraid that "Kubla Khan" is an owl that won't bear daylight. I fear lest it should be discovered by the lantern of typography and clear reducing to letters no better than nonsense or no sense. When I was young I used to chant with ecstasy "MILD ARCADIANs EVER BLOOMING," till somebody told me it was meant to be nonsense. Even yet I have a lingering attachment to it, and I think it better than "Windsor Forest," "Dying Christian's Address," etc. Coleridge has sent his tragedy to D[rury] L[ane] T[heatre]. It cannot be acted this season; and by their manner of receiving, I hope he will be able to alter it to make them accept it for next. He is, at present, under the medical care of a Mr. Gillman (Killman?) a Highgate apothecary, where he plays at leaving off laud—m. I think his essentials not touched: he is very bad; but then he wonderfully picks up another day, and his face, when he repeats his verses, hath its ancient glory; an archangel a little damaged.

TO MISS MATILDA BETHAM,  
1816.

All this while I have been tormenting myself with the thought of having been ungracious to you, and you have been all the while accusing yourself. Let us absolve one another, and be quiet. My head is in such a state from incapacity for business that I certainly know it to be my duty not to undertake the veriest trifle in addition. I hardly know how I can go on. I have tried to get some redress by explaining my health, but with no great success. No one can tell how ill I am because it does not come out to the exterior of my face, but lies in my skull, deep and invisible. I wish I was leprous, and black jaundiced

skin over, and that all was as well within as my cursed looks. You must not think me worse than I am. I am determined not to be overset, but to give up business rather, and get 'em to allow me a trifle for services past. Oh! that I had been a shoemaker, or a baker, or a man of large independent fortune! Oh! darling laziness! heaven of Epicurus! Saint's Everlasting Rest! that I could drink vast potations of thee thro' unmeasured Eternity—*Otium cum, vel sine dignitate*. Scandalous, dishonourable—any kind of *repose*. I stand not upon the dignified sort. Accursed, damned desks, trade, commerce, business! Inventions of the old original busy-body, brain-working Satan—Sabbathless, restless Satan! A curse relieves: do you ever try it?

TO COLERIDGE,  
1822.

It gives me great satisfaction to hear that the pig turned out so well: they are interesting creatures at a certain age. What a pity such buds should blow out into the maturity of rank bacon! You had all some of the crackling and brain sauce. Did you remember to rub it with butter, and gently dredge it a little, just before the crisis? Did the eyes come away kindly with no Œdipean avulsion? Was the crackling the colour of the ripe pomegranate? Had you no complement of boiled neck of mutton before it, to blunt the edge of delicate desire? Did you flesh maiden teeth in it? Not that I sent the pig, or can form the remotest guess what part Owen could play in the business. I never knew him give anything away in my life. He would not begin with strangers. I suspect the pig, after all, was meant for me; but at the unlucky juncture of time being absent, the present somehow went round to Highgate. To confess an honest truth, a pig is one of those things which I could never think of sending away. Teal, widgeon, snipes, barn-door fowls, ducks, geese—your tame villatic things—Welsh mutton, collars of brawn, sturgeon, fresh or pickled, your potted char, Swiss cheeses, French pies, early grapes, muscadines, I impart as freely unto my friends as to myself. They are but self-extended: but pardon me if I stop somewhere. Where the fine feeling of benevolence giveth a higher smack than the sensual rarity, there my friends (or any good man) may command me; but pigs are pigs, and I myself therein



am nearest to myself. Nay, I should think it an affront, an undervaluing done to Nature who bestowed such a boon upon me, if in a churlish mood I parted with the precious gift. One of the bitterest pangs of remorse I ever felt was when a child—when my kind old aunt had strained her pocket-strings to bestow a sixpenny whole plum-cake upon me. In my way home through the Borough I met a venerable old man, not a mendicant, but thereabouts; a look-beggar, not a verbal petitioner; and in the coxcombry of taught charity I gave away the cake to him. I walked on a little in all the pride of an Evangelical peacock, when of a sudden my old aunt's kindness crossed me; the sum it was to her; the pleasure she had a right to expect that I—not the old impostor—should take in eating her cake; the ingratitude by which, under the colour of a Christian virtue, I had frustrated her cherished purpose. I sobbed, wept, and took it to heart so grievously, that I think I never suffered the like; and I was right. It was a piece of unfeeling hypocrisy, and it proved a lesson to me ever after. The cake has long been masticated, consigned to the dunghill with the ashes of that unseasonable pauper.

But when Providence, who is better to us all than our aunts, gives me a pig, remembering my temptation and my fall, I shall endeavour to act towards it more in the spirit of the donor's purpose.

Yours (short of pig) to command in everything.

To GODWIN, . I sincerely feel for all your trouble. Pray use  
1822. the enclosed £50, and pay me when you can. I shall make it my business to see you very shortly.

To SOUTHEY, The kindness of your note has melted away  
1823. the mist which was upon me. I have been fighting against a shadow. That accursed *Q. R.* had vexed me by a gratuitous speaking, of its own knowledge, that the *Confessions of a D*——*d* was a genuine description of the state of the writer. Little things, that are not ill-meant, may produce much ill. *That* might have injured me alive and dead. I am in a public office, and my life is insured. I was prepared for anger, and I thought I saw, in a few obnoxious words a hard case of repetition directed

against me. I wished both magazine and review at the bottom of the sea. I shall be ashamed to see you, and my sister (though innocent) will be still more so; for the folly was done without her knowledge, and has made her uneasy ever since. My guardian angel was absent at that time.

TO BERNARD BARTON, I am accounted by some people a  
1824. good man! How cheap that character is acquired! Pay your debts, don't borrow money, nor twist your kitten's neck off, nor disturb a congregation, etc., your business is done. I know things (thoughts or things, thoughts *are* things) of myself, which would make every friend I have fly me as a plague patient. I once . . . and set a dog upon a crab's leg that was shoved out under a mass of sea-weed—a pretty little feeler. Oh! pah how sick I am of that! and a lie, a mean one, I once told!—I stink in the midst of respect.

TO BERNARD BARTON, So we have lost another Poet. I never  
1824. much relished his Lordship's mind, and shall be sorry if the Greeks have cause to miss him. He was to me offensive, and I can never make out his great *power*, which his admirers talk of. Why, a line of Wordsworth's is a lever to lift the immortal spirit. Byron can only move the Spleen. He was at best a Satyrist,—in any other way, he was mean enough. I daresay, I do him injustice; but I cannot love him, nor squeeze a tear to his memory. He did not like the world, and he has left it, as Alderman Curtis advised the Radicals "If they don't like their country, damn 'em, let 'em leave it," they possessing no rood of ground in England, and he 10,000 acres. Byron was better than many Curtises.

TO B. W. PROCTER, I do agnise a shame in not having been  
1824. to pay my congratulations to Mrs. Procter and your happy self, but on Sunday (my only morning) I was engaged to a country walk; and in virtue of the hypostatical union between us, when Mary calls, it is understood that I call too, we being univocal.

But indeed I am ill at these ceremonious inductions. I fancy I was not born with a call on my head, though I have brought one down upon it with a vengeance. I love not to pluck that sort of fruit crude, but to stay its ripening into visits. In probability Mary will be at



Southampton Row this morning, and something of that kind be matured between you, but in any case not many hours shall elapse before I shake you by the hand.

Meantime give my kindest felicitations to Mrs. Procter, and assure her I look forward with the greatest delight to our acquaintance. By the way, the deuce a bit of cake has come to hand, which hath an inauspicious look at first, but I comfort myself that that Mysterious Service hath the property of Sacramental Bread, which mice cannot nibble, nor time moulder.

I am married myself to a severe step-wife, who keeps me, not at bed and board, but at desk and board, and is jealous of my morning aberrations. I cannot slip out to congratulate kinder unions. It is well she leaves me alone o'nights,—the d——d Day-hag *Business*. She is even now peeping over me to see I am writing no love letters. I come, my dear—Where is the Indigo Sale Book?

TO BERNARD BARTON,      The fate of the unfortunate Faunt-  
1824.                      leroy makes me, whether I will or

no, to cast reflecting eyes around on such of my friends as, by a parity of situation, are exposed to a similarity of temptation. My very style seems to myself to become more impressive than usual, with the change of theme. Who that standeth, knoweth but he may yet fall? Your hands as yet, I am most willing to believe, have never deviated into other's property. You think it impossible that you could ever commit so heinous an offence; but so thought Fauntleroy once; so have thought many besides him, who at last have expiated as he hath done. You are as yet upright; but you are a banker, at least the next thing to it. I feel the delicacy of the subject; but cash must pass through your hands, sometimes to a great amount. If in an unguarded hour——but I will hope better. Consider the scandal it will bring upon those of your persuasion. Thousands would go to see a Quaker hanged, that would be indifferent to the fate of a Presbyterian or an Anabaptist. Think of the effect it would have on the sale of your poems alone, not to mention higher considerations! I tremble, I am sure, at myself, when I think that so many poor victims of the law, at one time of their life, made as sure of never being hanged, as

I in my presumption am too ready to do myself. What are we better than they? Do we come into the world with different necks? Is there any distinctive mark under our left ears? Are we unstrangulable, I ask you? Think of these things. I am shocked sometimes at the shape of my own fingers, not for the resemblance to the ape tribe (which is something), but for the exquisite adaptation of them to the purposes of picking, fingering, etc. No one that is so framed, I maintain it, but should tremble.

TO COLERIDGE,  
1824.

Dear Coleridge,—Why will you make your visits, which should give pleasure, matter of regret to your friends? You never come but you take away some folio, that is part of my existence. With a great deal of difficulty I was made to comprehend the extent of my loss. My maid, Becky, brought me a dirty bit of paper, which contained her description of some book which Mr. Coleridge had taken away. It was “Luster’s Tables,” which, for some time, I could not make out. “What! has he carried away any of the *tables*, Becky?” “No, it wasn’t any tables, but it was a book that he called Luster’s Tables.” I was obliged to search personally among my shelves, and a huge fissure suddenly disclosed to me the true nature of the damage I had sustained. That book, Coleridge, you should not have taken away, for it is not mine; it is the property of a friend, who does not know its value, nor indeed have I been very sedulous in explaining to him the estimate of it; but was rather contented in giving a sort of corroboration to a hint that he let fall, as to its being suspected to be not genuine, so that in all probability it would have fallen to me as a deodand; not but I am sure it is Luther’s as I am sure that Jack Bunyan wrote the *Pilgrim’s Progress*; but it was not for me to pronounce upon the validity of testimony that had been disputed by learned clerks than I; so I quietly let it occupy the place it had usurped upon my shelves, and should never have thought of issuing an ejectment against it; for why should I be so bigoted as to allow rites of hospitality to none but my own books, children, etc.?—a species of egotism I abhor from my heart. No; let ’em all snug together, Hebrews and Proselytes of the gate, no selfish partiality of mine



shall make distinction between them. I charge no warehouse room for my friends' commodities; they are welcome to come and stay as long as they like, without paying rent. I have several such strangers that I treat with more than Arabian courtesy. There's a copy of More's fine poem, which is none of mine, but I cherish it as my own. I am none of those churlish landlords that advertise the goods to be taken away in ten days' time, or then to be sold to pay expenses. So you see I had no right to lend you that book. I may lend you my own books, because it is at my own hazard; but it is not honest to hazard a friend's property; I always make that distinction. I hope you will bring it with you, or send it by Hartley; or he can bring that, and you the *Polemical Discourses*, and come and eat some atoning mutton with us one of these days shortly. We are engaged two or three Sundays deep, but always dine at home on week-days at half-past four. So come all four—men and books I mean. My third shelf (northern compartment) from the top has two devilish gaps, where you have knocked out its two eye-teeth.

TO WILLIAM WORDSWORTH,

1825.

I have been several times meditating a letter to you concerning the good thing which has befallen me, but the thought of poor Monkhouse came across me. He was one that I had exulted in the prospect of congratulating me. He and you were to have been the first participators, for indeed it has been ten weeks since the first motion of it. Here am I then, after thirty-three years' slavery, sitting in my own room at eleven o'clock this finest of all April mornings, a freed man, with £441 a year for the remainder of my life, live I as long as John Dennis, who outlived his annuity and starved at ninety; £441, *i.e.* £450, with a deduction of £9 for a provision secured to my sister, she being survivor, the pension guaranteed by Act *Georgii Tertii*, etc.

I came home FOR EVER on Tuesday in last week. The incomprehensibleness of my condition overwhelmed me. It was like passing from life into eternity. Every year to be as long as three, *i.e.* to have three times as much real time (time that is my own) in it! I wandered about thinking I was happy, but feeling I was not. But

that tumultuousness is passing off, and I begin to understand the nature of the gift. Holydays, even the annual month, were always uneasy joys; their conscious fugitiveness; the craving after making the most of them. Now, when all is holyday, there are no holydays. I can sit at home, in rain or shine, without a restless impulse for walkings. I am daily steadying, and shall soon find it as natural to me to be my own master, as it has been irksome to have had a master. Mary wakes every morning with an obscure feeling that some good has happened to us.

Leigh Hunt and Montgomery, after their releasements, describe the shock of their emancipation much as I feel mine. But it hurt their frames. I eat, drink, and sleep as sound as ever. I lay no anxious schemes for going hither and thither, but take things as they occur. Yesterday I excursed twenty miles; to-day I write a few letters. Pleasuring was for fugitive play-days; mine are fugitive only in the sense that life is fugitive. Freedom and life co-existent!

At the foot of such a call upon you for gratulation, I am ashamed to advert to that melancholy event. Monkhouse was a character I learned to love slowly, but it grew upon me, yearly, monthly, daily. What a chasm has it made in our pleasant parties! His noble friendly face was always coming before me, till this hurrying event in my life came, and for the time has absorbed all interest; in fact it has shaken me a little. My old desk companions, with whom I have had such merry hours, seem to reproach me for removing my lot from among them. They were pleasant creatures; but to the anxieties of business, and a weight of possible worse ever impending, I was not equal. Tuthill and Gillman gave me my certificates. I laughed at the friendly lie implied in them; but my sister shook her head, and said it was all true. Indeed, this last Winter I was jaded out: Winters were always worse than the other parts of the year, because the spirits are worse, and I had no daylight. In Summer I had day-light evenings. The relief was hinted to me from a superior Power, when I, poor slave, had not a hope but that I must wait another seven years with Jacob: and lo! the Rachel which I coveted is brought to me!

Have you read the noble dedication of Irving's "Missionary Orations" to S. T. C.? Who shall call this



man a quack hereafter? What the Kirk will think of it neither I nor Irving care. When somebody suggested to him that it would not be likely to do him good, videlicet, among his own people, "That is a reason for doing it," was his noble answer. That Irving thinks he has profited mainly by S. T. C., I have no doubt. The very style of the Dedication shows it.

Communicate my news to Southey, and beg his pardon for my being so long acknowledging his kind present of the "Church," which circumstances, having no reference to himself, prevented at the time. Assure him of my deep respect and friendliest feelings.

Divide the same, or rather each take the whole to you—I mean you and all yours.

TO BERNARD BARTON,      My spirits are so tumultuary with the  
1825.                              novelty of my recent emancipation,  
that I have scarce steadiness of hand, much more mind,  
to compose a letter. I am free, B. B.—free as air!

"The little bird that wings the sky  
Knows no such liberty."

I was set free on Tuesday in last week at four o'clock. I came home for ever!

I have been describing my feelings as well as I can to Wordsworth in a long letter, and don't care to repeat. Take it briefly, that for a few days I was painfully oppressed by so mighty a change, but it is becoming daily more natural to me. I went and sat among 'em all at my old thirty-three years' desk yester morning; and, deuce take me, if I had not yearnings at leaving all my old pen-and-ink fellows, merry, sociable lads, at leaving them in the lurch, fag, fag, fag!—The comparison of my own superior felicity gave me anything but pleasure.

B. B., I would not serve another seven years for seven hundred thousand pounds! I have got £441 net for life, sanctioned by Act of Parliament, with a provision for Mary if she survives me. I will live another fifty years; or, if I live but ten, they will be thirty, reckoning the quantity of real time in them, *i.e.* the time that is a man's own. Tell me how you like "Barbara S." Will it be received in atonement for the foolish "Vision?"—I

mean by the lady. *A-propos*, I never saw Mrs. Crawford in my life ; nevertheless 'tis all true of somebody.

Address me, in future, Colebrook Cottage, Islington. I am really nervous (but that will wear off), so take this brief announcement.

TO MISS HUTCHINSON,  
1825. I go about quiet, and have none of that restless hunting after recreation which made holydays formerly uneasy joys. All being holydays, I feel as if I had none, as they do in heaven, where 'tis all red-letter days. I have a kind letter from the Wordsworths, *congratulatory* not a little. It is a damp, I do assure you, amid all my prospects, that I can receive *none* from a quarter upon which I had calculated, almost more than from any, upon receiving congratulations. I had grown to like poor Monkhouse more and more. I do not esteem a soul living or not living more warmly than I had grown to esteem and value him. But words are vain. We have none of us to count upon many years. That is the only cure for sad thoughts. If only some died, and the rest were permanent on earth, what a thing a friend's death would be then !

TO BERNARD BARTON,  
1825. I did not express myself clearly about what I think a false topic insisted on so frequently in consolatory addresses on the death of infants. I know something like it is in Scripture, but I think humanly spoken. It is a natural thought, a sweet fallacy to the survivors, but still a fallacy. If it stands on the doctrine of this being a probationary state, it is liable to this dilemma. Omniscience, to whom possibility must be clear as act, must know of the child, what it would hereafter turn out ; if good, then the topic is false to say it is secured from falling into future wilfulness, vice, etc. If bad, I do not see how its exemption from certain future overt acts, by being snatched away, at all tells in its favour. You stop the arm of a murderer, or arrest the finger of a pickpurse ; but is not the guilt incurred as much by the intent as if never so much acted ? Why children are hurried off, and old reprobates of a hundred left, whose trial humanly we may think was complete at fifty, is among the obscurities of Providence. The very notion of a state of probation has darkness in it. The All-knower has no need of satisfying His eyes by seeing



what we will do, when He knows before what we will do. Methinks we might be condemned before commission. In these things we grope and flounder, and if we can pick up a little human comfort that the child taken is snatched from vice (no great compliment to it, by-the-by), let us take it. And as to where an untried child goes, whether to join the assembly of its elders who have borne the heat of the day—fire-purified martyrs, and torment-sifted confessors—what know we! We promise heaven, methinks, too cheaply and assign large revenues to minors, incompetent to manage them. Epitaphs run upon this topic of consolation, till the very frequency induces a cheapness. Tickets for admission into Paradise are sculptured out at a penny a letter, two-pence a syllable, etc. It is all a mystery; and the more I try to express my meaning (having none that is clear), the more I flounder. Finally, write what your own conscience, which to you is the unerring judge, seems best, and be careless about the whimsies of such a half-baked notionist as I am.

TO BERNARD BARTON,  
1826. You may know my letters by the paper and the folding. For the former, I live on scraps obtained in charity from an old friend, whose stationery is a permanent perquisite; for folding, I shall do it neatly when I learn to tie my neckcloths. I surprise most of my friends by writing to them on ruled paper, as if I had not got past pot-hooks and hangers. Sealing-wax, I have none on my establishment; wafers of the coarsest bran supply its place. When my epistles come to be weighed with Pliny's, however superior to the Roman in delicate irony, judicious reflections, etc., his gilt post will bribe over the judges to him. All the time I was at the E. I. H. I never mended a pen, I now cut 'em to the stumps, marring rather than mending the primitive goose-quill. I cannot bear to pay for articles I used to get for nothing. When Adam laid out his first penny upon nonpareils at some stall in Mesopotamos, I think it went hard with him, reflecting upon his old goodly orchard, where he had so many for nothing. When I write to a great man at the Court end, he opens with surprise upon a naked note, such as Whitechapel people interchange, with no sweet degrees of envelope. I never enclosed one bit of paper in another, nor understood the

rationale of it. Once only I sealed with borrowed wax, to set Walter Scott a wondering, signed with the imperial quartered arms of England, which my friend Field gives in compliment to his descent, in the female line, from Oliver Cromwell. It must have set his antiquarian curiosity upon watering. To your questions upon the currency, I refer you to Mr. Robinson's last speech, where, if you can find a solution, I can not. I think this, though, the best ministry we ever stumbled upon;—gin reduced four shillings in the gallon, wine two shillings in the quart! This comes home to men's minds and bosoms. My tirade against visitors was not meant *particularly* at you or A. K.—. I scarce know what I meant, for I do not just now feel the grievance. I wanted to make an *article*. So in another thing I talked of somebody's *insipid wife*, without a correspondent object in my head: and a good lady, a friend's wife, whom I really *love* (don't startle, I mean in a licit way), has looked shyly on me ever since. The blunders of personal application are ludicrous. I send out a character every now and then, on purpose to exercise the ingenuity of my friends. "Popular Fallacies" will go on; and that word "concluded" is an erratum, I suppose, for "continued." I do not know how it got stuffed in there. A little thing without name will also be printed on the Religion of the Actors, but it is out of our way, so I recommend you, with true author's hypocrisy, to skip it. We are about to sit down to roast beef, at which we could wish A. K., B. B., and B. B.'s pleasant daughter to be humble partakers. So much for my hint at visitors, which was scarcely calculated for droppers-in from Woodbridge; the sky does not drop such larks every day. My very kindest wishes to you all three, with my sister's best love.

TO P. G. PATMORE,  
1827.

I have been to a funeral, where I made a pun, to the consternation of the rest of the mourners. And we had wine. I can't describe to you the howl which the widow set up at proper intervals. Dash could, for it was not unlike what he makes. . . .

O, I am so poorly! I *waked* it at my cousin's the bookbinder, who is now with God; or if he is not, 'tis no fault of mine.



We hope the Frank wines do not disagree with Mrs. P—— By the way, I like her.

Did you ever taste frogs? Get them if you can. They are like little Lilliput rabbits, only a thought nicer.

How sick I am!—not of the world, but of the widow's shrub. She's sworn under £6000, but I think she perjured herself. She howls in *E la*, and I comfort her in *B flat*. You understand music?

If you hav'n't got Massinger, you have nothing to do but go to the first Bibliothèque you can light upon at Boulogne, and ask for it (Gifford's edition); and if they hav'n't got it you can have "*Athalie*" par Monsieur Racine, and make the best of it. But that "*Old Law*" is delicious.

"No shrimps!" (that's in answer to Mary's question about how the soles are to be done).

I am uncertain where this wandering letter may reach you. What you mean by *Poste Restante*, God knows. Do you mean I must pay the postage? So I do, to Dover.

We had a merry passage with the widow at the Commons. She was howling—part howling and part giving directions to the proctor—when crash! down went my sister through a crazy chair, and made the clerks grin, and I grinned, and the widow tittered, and then I knew that she was not inconsolable. Mary was more frightened than hurt.

TO BERNARD BARTON, 1827. Nothing fills a child's mind like a large old mansion; better if un—or partially—occupied; peopled with the spirits of deceased members of the county and Justices of the Quorum. Would I were buried in the peopled solitude of one, with my feelings at seven years old! Those marble busts of the Emperors, they seemed as if they were to stand for ever, as they had stood from the living days of Rome, in that old marble hall, and I to partake of their permanency. Eternity was, while I thought not of Time. But he thought of me, and they are toppled down, and corn covers the spot of the noble old dwelling and its princely gardens. I feel like a grasshopper that, chirping about the grounds, escaped his scythe only by my littleness. Even now he is whetting one of his smallest razors to clean wipe me out, perhaps. Well!

TO BERNARD BARTON,      Positively, the best thing a man can  
                                  1827.      have to do is nothing, and next to  
 that perhaps—good works.

TO P. G. PATMORE,      Dear P.,—Excuse my anxiety, but how  
                                  1827.      is Dash? I should have asked if Mrs.  
 Patmore kept her rules, and was improving; but Dash  
 came uppermost. The order of our thoughts should be  
 the order of our writing. Goes he muzzled, or *aperto ore*?  
 Are his intellects sound, or does he wander a little in *his*  
 conversation? You cannot be too careful to watch the  
 first symptoms of incoherence. The first illogical snarl  
 he makes, to St. Luke's with him! All the dogs here  
 are going mad, if you believe the overseers; but I protest  
 they seem to me very rational and collected. But nothing  
 is so deceitful as mad people, to those who are not used  
 to them. Try him with hot water: if he won't lick it up  
 it is a sign he does not like it. Does his tail wag  
 horizontally, or perpendicularly? That has decided the  
 fate of many dogs in Enfield. Is his general deportment  
 cheerful? I mean when he is pleased—for otherwise  
 there is no judging. You can't be too careful. Has he  
 bit any of the children yet? If he has, have them shot,  
 and keep *him* for curiosity, to see if it was the hydro-  
 phobia. They say all our army in India had it at one  
 time; but that was in *Hyder-Ally's* time. Do you get  
 paunch for him? Take care the sheep was sane. You  
 might pull out his teeth (if he would let you), and then  
 you need not mind if he were as mad as a Bedlamite.  
 . . . . If the slightest suspicion arises in your breast  
 that all is not right with him, muzzle him and lead him  
 in a string (common pack-thread will do—he don't care  
 for twist) to Mr. Hood's his quondam master, and he'll  
 take him in at any time. You may mention your suspicion,  
 or not, as you like, or as you think it may wound or not  
 Mr. H.'s feelings. Hood, I know, will wink at a few  
 follies in Dash, in consideration of his former sense.  
 Besides, Hood is deaf, and if you hinted anything, ten to  
 one he would not hear you. Besides, you will have  
 discharged your conscience, and laid the child at the  
 right door, as they say.



TO BARRON FIELD,  
1827.

As my poor cousin, the bookbinder, now with God, told me most sentimentally, that having purchased a picture of fish at a dead man's sale, his heart ached to see how the widow grieved to part with it, being her dear husband's favourite; and he almost apologised for his generosity by saying he could not help telling the widow she was "welcome to come and look at it"—*e.g.* at *his house*—"as often as she pleased." There was the germ of generosity in an uneducated mind. He had just *reading* enough from the backs of books for the "*nec sinit esse feros*;" had he read inside, the same impulse would have led him to give back the two-guinea thing—with a request to see it, now and then, at *her* house. We are parroted into delicacy.

TO B. W. PROCTER,  
1829.

I had another favour to beg, which is the beggarliest of beggings: a few lines of verse for a young friend's album (six will be enough). M. Burney will tell you who she is I want 'em for. A girl of gold. Six lines—make 'em eight—signed Barry C——. They need not be very good, as I chiefly want 'em as a foil to mine. But I shall be seriously obliged by any refuse scrap. We are in the last ages of the world, when St. Paul prophesied that women should be "head-strong, lovers of their own wills, having albums." I fled hither to escape the albumean persecution, and had not been in my new house twenty-four hours when the daughter of the next house came in with a friend's album to beg a contribution, and the following day intimated she had one of her own. Two more have sprung up since. "If I take the wings of the morning" and fly unto the uttermost parts of the earth, there will albums be. New Holland has albums. But the age is to be complied with. M. B. will tell you the sort of girl I request the ten lines for. Somewhat of a pensive cast, what you admire. The lines may come before the law question, as that cannot be determined before Hilary Term, and I wish your deliberate judgment on that. The other may be flimsy and superficial. And if you have not burnt your returned letter, pray resend it me, as a monumental token of my stupidity. 'Twas a little unthinking of you to touch upon a sore subject. Why, by dabbling in those accursed

Annals I have become a byword of infamy all over the kingdom. I have sicken'd decent women for asking me to write in albums. There be dark "jests" abroad, Master Cornwall, and some riddles may live to be cleared up. And 'tisn't every saddle is put on the right steed. And forgeries and false Gospels are not peculiar to the age following the Apostles. And some tubs don't stand on their right bottom, which is all I wish to say in these ticklish times ; and so your servant.

TO BERNARD BARTON,  
1829.

Your hand writing has conveyed much pleasure to me in report of Lucy's restoration. Would I could send you as good news of my poor Lucy. But some wearisome weeks I must remain lonely yet. I have had the loneliest time, near ten weeks, broken by a short apparition of Emma for her holidays, whose departure only deepened the returning solitude, and by ten days I have past in town. But town, with all my native hankering after it, is not what it was. The streets, the shops are left ; but all old friends are gone ! And in London I was frightfully convinced of this as I passed houses and places, empty caskets now. I have ceased to care almost about anybody. The bodies I cared for are in graves, or dispersed. My old clubs, that lived so long and flourished so steadily, are crumbled away. When I took leave of our adopted young friend at Charing Cross, 'twas heavy unfeeling rain, and I had nowhere to go. Home have I none, and not a sympathising house to turn to in the great city. Never did the waters of heaven pour down on a forlorn head. Yet I tried ten days at a sort of friend's house, but it was large and straggling,—one of the individuals of my old long knot of friends, card-players, pleasant companions, that have tumbled to pieces, into dust and other things ; and I got home on Thursday, convinced that I was better to get home to my hole at Enfield, and hide like a sick cat in my corner. Less than a month I hope will bring home Mary. She is at Fulham, looking better in her health than ever, but sadly rambling, and scarce showing any pleasure in seeing me, or curiosity when I should come again. But the old feelings will come back again, and we shall drown old sorrows over a game of piquet again. But 'tis a tedious cut out of a life of 64, to lose



12 or 13 weeks every year or two. And to make me more alone, our ill-tempered maid is gone, who, with all her airs, was yet a home-piece of furniture, a record of better days. The young thing that has succeeded her is good and attentive, but she is nothing. And I have no one here to talk over old matters with. Scolding and quarrelling have something of familiarity, and a community of interest; they imply acquaintance; they are of resentment, which is of the family of dearness.

TO BERNARD BARTON,  
1829.

I will tell you honestly, B. B., that it has been long my deliberate judgment that all bankrupts, of whatsoever denomination, civil or religious, ought to be hanged. The pity of mankind has for ages run in a wrong channel, and has been diverted from poor creditors—(how many I have known sufferers! Hazlitt has just been defrauded of £100 by his bookseller-friends breaking)—to scoundrel debtors. I know all the topics—that distress may come upon an honest man without his fault; that the failure of one that he trusted was his calamity, etc. Then let *both* be hanged. O how careful it would make traders! These are my deliberate thoughts, after many years' experience in matters of trade. What a world of trouble it would have saved you, if Friend \* \* \* \* had been immediately hanged, without benefit of clergy, which (being a Quaker I presume) he could not reasonably insist upon. Why, after slaving twelve months in your assign-business, you will be enabled to declare 7*d.* in the pound in all human probability. B. B., he should be *hanged*. Trade will never re-flourish in this land till such a law is established. I write big, not to save ink but eyes, mine having been troubled with reading through three folios of old Fuller in almost as few days, and I went to bed last night in agony, and am writing with a vial of eye-water before me, alternately dipping in vial and inkstand. This may inflame my zeal against bankrupts, but it was my speculation when I could see better. Half the world's misery (Eden else) is owing to want of money, and all that want is owing to bankrupts. I declare I would, if the state wanted practitioners, turn hangman myself, and should have great pleasure in hanging the first bankrupt after my salutary law should be established.

TO WORDSWORTH,  
1830.

And is it a year since we parted from you at the steps of Edmonton stage? There are not now the years that used to be. The tale of the dwindled age of men, reported of successional mankind, is true of the same man only. We do not live a year in a year now. 'Tis a *punctum stans*. The seasons pass us with indifference. Spring cheers not, nor Winter heightens our gloom; Autumn hath forgone its moralities,—they are “hey-pass re-pass,” as in a show-box. Yet, as far as last year occurs back,—for they scarce show a reflex now, they make no memory as heretofore,—’twas sufficiently gloomy. Let the sullen nothing pass. Suffice it, that after sad spirits, prolonged through many of its months, as it called them, we have cast our skins; have taken a farewell of the pompous, troublesome trifle, called house-keeping, and are settled down into poor boarders and lodgers at next door with an old couple, the Baucis and Baucida of dull Enfield. Here we have nothing to do with our victuals but to eat them; with the garden but to see it grow; with the tax-gatherer but to hear him knock; with the maid but to hear her scolded. Scot and lot, butcher, baker, are things unknown to us, save as spectators of the pageant. We are fed we know not how; quietists—confiding ravens. We have *otium pro dignitate*, a respectable insignificance. Yet in the self-condemned obliviousness, in the stagnation, some molesting yearnings of life, not quite killed, rise, prompting me that there was a London, and that I was of that old Jerusalem. In dreams I am in Fleet Market, but I wake and cry to sleep again. I die hard, a stubborn Eloisa in this detestable Paraclete. What have I gained by health? Intolerable dulness. What by early hours and moderate meals? A total blank. O never let the lying poets be believed, who ’tice men from the cheerful haunts of streets, or think they mean it not of a country village. In the ruins of Palmyra I could gird myself up to solitude, or muse to the snorings of the Seven Sleepers; but to have a little teasing image of a town about one; country folks that do not look like country folks; shops two yards square, half-a-dozen apples, and two penn’orth of overlooked ginger-bread for the lofty fruiterers of Oxford Street; and, for the immortal book and print stalls, a circulating library that stands still, where the show-picture is a last



year's Valentine, and whither the fame of the last ten Scotch novels has not yet travelled,—(marry, they just begin to be conscious of the *Redgauntlet*.)—to have a new plastered flat church, and to be wishing that it was but a cathedral! The very blackguards here are degenerate; the topping gentry stockbrokers; the passengers too many to insure your quiet, or let you go about whistling or gaping, too few to be the fine indifferent pageants of Fleet Street. Confining, room-keeping, thickest Winter, is yet more bearable here than the gaudy months. Among one's books at one's fire by candle, one is soothed into an oblivion that one is not in the country; but with the light the green fields return, till I gaze, and in a calenture can plunge myself into St. Giles's. O let no native Londoner imagine that health, and rest, and innocent occupation, interchange of converse sweet, and recreative study, can make the country anything better than altogether odious and detestable! A garden was the primitive prison, till man, with Promethan felicity and boldness, luckily sinned himself out of it. Thence followed Babylon, Nineveh, Venice, London, haberdashers, goldsmiths, taverns, play-houses, satires, epigrams, puns,—these all came in on the town part, and the thither side of innocence. Man found out inventions. From my den I return you condolence for your decaying sight; not for anything there is to see in the country, but for the miss of the pleasure of reading a London newspaper. The poets are as well to listen to; anything high may, nay must, be read out; you read it to yourself with an imaginary auditor; but the light paragraphs must be glid over by the proper eye; mouthing mumbles their gossamery substance. 'Tis these trifles I should mourn in fading sight. A newspaper is the single gleam of comfort I receive here; it comes from the rich Cathay with tidings of mankind. Yet I could not attend to it, read out by the most beloved voice. But your eyes do not get worse, I gather. O for the collyrium of Tobias inclosed in a whiting's liver, to send you with no apocryphal good wishes! The last long time I heard from you, you had knocked your head against something. Do not do so; for your head (I do not flatter) is not a knob, or the top of a brass nail, or the end of a nine pin,—unless a Vulcanian hammer could fairly batter a "Recluse" out of it; then would I bid the smirched god

knock and knock lustily, the two-handed skinker. Mary must squeeze out a line *propria manu*, but indeed her fingers have been incorrigibly nervous to letter writing for a long interval. 'Twill please you all to hear, that though I fret like a lion in a net, her present health and spirits are better than they have been for some time past. She is absolutely three years and a half younger, as I tell her, since we have adopted this boarding plan.

Our providers are an honest pair, Dame W[estwood] and her husband. He, when the light of prosperity shined on them, a moderately thriving haberdasher, within Bowbells, retired since with something under a competence; writes himself parcel gentleman; hath borne parish offices; sings fine old sea songs at threescore and ten; sighs only now and then when he thinks that he has a son on his hands, about fifteen, whom he finds a difficulty in getting out into the world, and then checks a sigh with muttering, as I once heard him prettily, not meaning to be heard, "I have married my daughter, however;" takes the weather as it comes; outsides it to town in severest season; and o' winter nights tells old stories not tending to literature (how comfortable to author-rid folks!), and has *one anecdote*, upon which and about forty pounds a year he seems to have retired in green old age. It was how he was a rider in his youth, travelling for shops, and once (not to balk his employer's bargain) on a sweltering day in August, rode foaming into Dunstable upon a mad horse, to the dismay and expostulatory wonderment of innkeepers, ostlers, etc., who declared they would not have bestrid the beast to win the Derby. Understand, the creature galled to death and desperation by gad flies, cormorant-winged, worse than beset Inachus's daughter. This he tells, this he brindles and burnishes on a Winter's eve; 'tis his star of set glory, his rejuvenescence, to descant upon. Far from me be it (*dii avertant*) to look a gift story in the mouth, or cruelly to surmise (as those who doubt the plunge of Curtius) that the inseparate conjuncture of man and beast, the centaur-phenomenon that staggered all Dunstable, might have been the effect of unromantic necessity; that the horse-part carried the reasoning, willy nilly; that needs must when such a devil drove; that certain spiral configurations in the frame of T[homas] W[estwood] unfriendly to alighting, made the



alliance more forcible than voluntary. Let him enjoy his fame for me, nor let me hint a whisper that shall dismount Bellerophon. But in case he was an involuntary martyr, yet if in the fiery conflict he buckled the soul of a constant haberdasher to him, and adopted his flames, let accident and him share the glory. You would all like Thomas Westwood. How weak is painting to describe a man! Say that he stands four feet and a nail high by his own yard measure, which, like the sceptre of Agamemnon, shall never sprout again, still you have no adequate idea; nor when I tell you that his dear hump, which I have favoured in the picture, seems to me of the buffalo—indicative and repository of mild qualities, a budget of kindnesses—still you have not the man. Knew you old Norris of the Temple? sixty years ours and our father's friend? He was not more natural to us than this old W., the acquaintance of scarce more weeks. Under his roof now ought I to take my rest, but that back-looking ambition tells me I might yet be a Londoner! Well, if we ever do move, we have incumbrances the less to impede us; all our furniture has faded under the auctioneer's hammer, going for nothing, like the tarnished frippery of the prodigal, and we have only a spoon or two left to bless us. Clothed we came into Enfield, and naked we must go out of it. I would live in London shirtless, bookless. Henry Crab is at Rome; advices to that effect have reached Bury. But by solemn legacy he bequeathed at parting (whether he should live or die) a turkey of Suffolk to be sent every succeeding Christmas to us and divers other friends. What a genuine old bachelor's action! I fear he will find the air of Italy too classic. His station is in the Harz forest; his soul is be-Goethed. Miss Kelly we never see; Talfourd not this half-year: the latter flourishes, but the exact number of his children (God forgive me!) I have utterly forgotten. We single people are often out in our count there. Shall I say two? We see scarce anybody. Can I cram loves enough to you all in this little O? Excuse particularising.

TO DR. ASBURY,  
1830. Some draughts and boluses have been brought here, which we conjecture were meant for the young lady whom you saw this morning, though they are labelled for

## MISS ISOLA LAMB.

No such person is known on the Chase Side, and she is fearful of taking medicines which may have been made up for another patient. She begs me to say that she was born an *Isola* and christened *Emma*. Moreover that she is Italian by birth, and that her ancestors were from Isola Bella (Fair Island) in the kingdom of Naples. She has never changed her name and rather mournfully adds that she has no prospect at present of doing so. She is literally I. SOLA, or single, at present. Therefore she begs that the obnoxious monosyllable may be omitted on future Phials,—an innocent syllable enough, you'll say, but she has no claim to it. It is the bitterest pill of the seven you have sent her. When a lady loses her good *name*, what is to become of her? Well she must swallow it as well as she can, but begs the dose may not be repeated.

TO COLERIDGE, 1832. Not an unkind thought has passed in my brain about you; but I have been too fully neglectful of you; so that I do not deserve to announce to you, that if I do not hear from you before then, I will set out on Wednesday morning to take you by the hand. I would do it this moment, but an unexpected visit might flurry you. I shall take silence for acquiescence, and come. I am glad you could write so long a letter. Old loves to, and hope of kind looks from, the Gillmans when I come.

If you ever thought an offence, much more wrote it, against me, it must have been in the times of Noah, and the great waters swept it away. Mary's most kind love, and maybe a wrong prophet of your bodings!—here she is crying for mere love over your letter. I wring out less, but not sincerer showers.

TO E. MOXON, 1833. For God's sake give Emma no more watches; *one* has turned her head. She is arrogant and insulting. She said something very unpleasant to our old clock in the passage, as if he did not keep time, and yet he had made her no appointment. She takes it out every instant to look at the moment-hand. She lugs us out into the fields, because there the bird-boys ask you, "Pray, sir, can you tell us what's o'clock?" and she answers them punctually. She loses all her time looking to see "what the time is." I overheard her whispering,



“Just so many hours, minutes, etc., to Tuesday; I think St. George’s goes too slow.” This little present of Time! why,—’tis Eternity to her!

What can make her so fond of a gingerbread watch!

She has spoiled some of the movements. Between ourselves, she has kissed away “half-past twelve,” which I suppose to be the canonical hour in Hanover Square.

Well, if “love me love my watch” answers, she will keep time to you.

It goes right by the Horse Guards.

Dearest M.—Never mind opposite nonsense. She does not love you for the watch, but the watch for you. I will be at the wedding, and keep the 30<sup>th</sup> July, as long as my poor months last me, as a festival, gloriously.

We have not heard from Cambridge. I will write the moment we do.

Edmonton, 24<sup>th</sup> July, twenty minutes past three by Emma’s watch.

TO WORDSWORTH, 1834. I write from a house of mourning. The oldest and best friends I have left are in trouble. A branch of them (and they of the best stock of God’s creatures, I believe) is establishing a school at Carlisle; her name is Louisa Martin; her address, 75, Castle Street, Carlisle; her qualities (and her motives for this exertion) are the most amiable, most upright. For thirty years she has been tried by me, and on her behaviour I would stake my soul. O, if you can recommend her, how would I love you—if I could love you better! Pray, pray, recommend her. She is as good a human creature,—next to my sister, perhaps, the most exemplary female I ever knew. Moxon tells me you would like a letter from me; you shall have one. *This* I cannot mingle up with any nonsense which you usually tolerate from C. Lamb. Need he add loves to wife, sister, and all; Poor Mary is ill again, after a short lucid interval of four or five months. In short, I may call her half dead to me. Good you are to me. Yours with fervour of friendship, for ever.

If you want references, the Bishop of Carlisle may be one. Louisa’s sister, (as good as she, she cannot be better, though she tries) educated the daughters of the late Earl of Carnarvon, and he settled a handsome annuity on her for life. In short, all the family are a sound rock.

TO REV. JAMES GILLMAN,  
1834.

The sad week being over,\* I must write to you to say that I was glad of being spared from attending; I have no words to express my feeling with you all. I can only say that when you think a short visit from me would be acceptable, when your father and mother shall be able to see me *with comfort*, I will come to the bereaved house. Express to them my tenderest regards and hopes that they will continue our friends still. We both love and respect them as much as a human being can, and finally thank them with our hearts for what they have been to the poor departed.

---

RECOLLECTIONS BY  
THOMAS WESTWOOD.

“My last meeting with Lamb took place at Edmonton shortly before his decease. We had a pleasant ramble along the green Edmonton lanes, turning in more than once at wayside hostels, such as Walton would have delighted in, and moistening our discourse with draughts from the unsophisticated pewter. For each host or hostess my companion had his joke or his salutation, and was clearly an honoured and familiar presence. Later in the evening, when the lamp was lit, I ventured to slip into his hand that worst of all literary scarecrows, a volume of manuscript of juvenile verse. With his customary kindness and patience he deciphered the weary pages, bantered me occasionally on my misanthropic and ultra-despairing moods, and selected for commendation such of the pieces as were simplest and sincerest. In the latter contingency Mary Lamb was usually called in for confirmation. Then we parted: and a few days later that grave was dug; and one of the sweetest-natured, truest, most genial-hearted creatures God ever blessed the world with, went down into it.”

Charles Lamb died December 27, 1834.

---

\* Coleridge died 25th July, 1834.



## LAMB'S TABLE TALK.

"In these miscellaneous gatherings Lamb said little, except when an opening arose for a pun. And how effectual that sort of small shot was for him, I need not say to anybody who remembers his infirmity of stammering, and his dexterous management of it for purposes of light and shade. He was often able to train the roll of stammers into settling upon the words immediately preceding the effective one; by which means the key-note of the jest or sarcasm, benefiting by the sudden liberation of embargoed voice, was delivered with the force of a pistol shot. That stammer was worth an annuity to him as an ally of his wit. Firing under cover of that advantage, he did triple execution; for, in the first place the distressing sympathy of his hearers with his distress of utterance won for him unavoidably the silence of deep attention; and then, whilst he had us all hoaxed into this attitude of mute suspense by an appearance of distress that he perhaps did not really feel, down came a plunging shot into the very thick of us, with ten times the effect it would else have had."—*Letter from an old friend of Lamb to De Quincey.*

Being told that somebody had lampooned him, he said, "Very well; I'll *Lamb-pun* him."

Barry Cornwall tells this story. "I once said something in Lamb's presence, which I thought possessed smartness. He commended me with a stammer: 'Very well, my dear boy, very well; Ben [*taking a pinch of snuff*] Ben Jonson has said worse things than that—and b-b-better.'"

"Lamb met Procter, and, speaking of his little girl (then an infant), Procter said they had called her Adelaide. 'Ah!' said Lamb, 'a very good name for her—*Addlehead.*'"

“Somebody was telling of a merry party then in prospect. ‘There will be——’ (Lamb smiled), ‘and——’ (another smile, but sickly), ‘and——’ (‘You might have done better,’ said Lamb), ‘and D. D.——.’ ‘Ugh!’ shuddered Lamb, at this last name, with a face expressive of nausea. ‘*He!* he’d throw a—damp upon a—a—a *funeral!*’”

“Mrs. K——, after expressing her love for her young children, added, tenderly, ‘And how do *you* like babies, Mr. Lamb?’ His answer, immediate, almost precipitate, was ‘Boi-boi-boiled, ma’am.’”

The following are derived from the Memoir of Lamb published by the late Bryan Waller Procter, better known as Barry Cornwall:—

“Second son of George II., it was said, had a very cold and ungenial manner. Lamb stammered out in his defence that ‘this was very natural in the Duke of Cumber-land.’”

“‘What a fine style X. has!’ said a poetaster. ‘Excellent,’ echoed another person; ‘don’t you think so, Mr. Lamb?’ ‘I’m no judge of styles,’ was the answer; ‘I only know what pleases myself.’ ‘But surely, Mr. Lamb, you *must* think it fine. For my part, the word *fine* doesn’t half express what I think of it. It doesn’t at all come up to my ideas.’ ‘Perhaps,’ observed Lamb, ‘the word su-su-*super*-fine will do better.’”

“Lamb and his sister were one evening supping at Mrs. M——’s. Lamb (with a little assistance from another person) had made his way to the bottom of the second bottle of porter. ‘You really shall not have any more, Charles,’ said his sister. ‘Pray, Mrs. M——, don’t give him any more.’ ‘You hear what your sister says, Mr. Lamb?’ observed Mrs. M——, pouring out the remains of the porter (which was thick) into his glass. ‘She is a person of mean capacity,’ said he; ‘I never listen to her. Try the next bottle, madam, for this is thick, and—*Hospitality should run fine to the last.*’”

When Coleridge was speculating, in a dream worthy of Plato, upon a future state of existence, upon man as he is, and man as he is to be, Lamb said: “Give me man as he is *not* to be.”



Charles Lamb sitting next some chattering woman at dinner, observing he didn't attend to her, "You don't seem," said the lady, "to be at all the better for what I have been saying to you." "No, ma'am," he answered, "but this gentleman at the other side of me must, for it all came in at one ear and went out at the other."

"Once, whilst waiting in the Highgate stage, a woman came to the door, and inquired in a stern voice, 'Are you quite full inside?' 'Yes, ma'am," said Charles, in meek reply, 'quite; that plateful of Mrs. Gillman's pudding has quite filled us.'"

Hume and his wife and several of their children were with Lamb. Hume repeated the old saying, "One fool makes many." "Ay, Mr. Hume," said Lamb, pointing to the company, "you have a fine family."

Haydon, in his Autobiography, relates the following:—  
"In December [1817], Wordsworth was in town, and as Keats wished to know him, I made up a party to dinner, of Charles Lamb, Wordsworth, Keats, and Monkhouse, his friend, and a very pleasant party we had. . . .

"On 28<sup>th</sup> December, the immortal dinner came off in my painting-room, with 'Jerusalem' towering up behind us as a background. Wordsworth was in fine cue, and we had a glorious set-to on Homer, Virgil, Shakespeare, and Milton. Lamb got exceedingly merry and exquisitely witty; and his fun in the midst of Wordsworth's solemn intonations of oratory was like the sarcasm and wit of the fool in the intervals of Lear's passion. Lamb soon got delightfully merry. He made a speech and voted me absent, and made me drink my health. 'Now,' said Lamb, 'you old lake poet, you rascally poet, why do you call Voltaire dull?' We all defended Wordsworth, and affirmed there was a state of mind when Voltaire would be dull. 'Well,' said Lamb, 'here's Voltaire—he's the Messiah of the French nation, and a very proper one too.' He then, in a strain of humour beyond description, abused me for putting Newton's head into my picture—'a fellow,' said he, 'who believed nothing except it was as clear as the three sides of a triangle.' And then he and Keats agreed he had destroyed all the poetry of the rainbow, by reducing it to the prismatic colours. It was

impossible to resist him, and we all drank 'Newton's health, and confusion to mathematics.' It was delightful to see the good humour of Wordsworth in giving in to all our frolics without affectation, and laughing as heartily as the best of us."

At the East India House the head of the office once reproved Lamb for the excessive irregularity of his attendance. "Really, Mr. Lamb, you come very late!" observed the official. "Y-yes," replied Lamb, with his habitual stammer, "b-but consi-sider how ear-early I go!"

The large room in the accountant's office at the East India House was divided into boxes or compartments, in each of which sat six clerks, Charles Lamb himself in one. They were called Compounds. The meaning of the word was asked one day, and Lamb said it was "a collection of simples."

On being asked by a schoolmistress for some sign indicative of her calling, Lamb recommended "The Murder of the Innocents."

On the table lay a copy of Wordsworth, in two volumes; it was the edition of Longman, printed about the time of Waterloo. Wordsworth was held in little consideration amongst the house of Longman; at any rate, their editions of his works were got up in the most slovenly manner. In particular, the table of contents was drawn up like a short-hand bill of parcels. By accident the book lay open at a part of this table where the sonnet beginning—

"Alas! what boots the long laborious quest"

had been entered, with mercantile speed, as—

"Alas! what boots"—

"Yes," said Lamb, reading this entry in a dolorous tone of voice. "he may well say that. I paid Hoby three guineas for a pair that tore like blotting-paper when I was leaping a ditch to escape a farmer that pursued me, with a pitchfork, for trespassing. But, why should W. wear boots in Westmoreland? Pray, advise him to patronise shoes."

Of L. E. L. Lamb said—"If she belonged to me, I would lock her up, and feed her on bread and water till she left off writing poetry."



Hood tempting Lamb to dine with him, said :—" We have a hare." " And how many friends ?" inquired Lamb.

" I believe," said Coleridge to Lamb. " you have heard me preach ?" " Yes," retorted Lamb, " I--I--never heard you do anything else."

Lamb "dumbfounded" a long tirade one evening by taking the pipe out of his mouth, and asking the speaker " Whether he meant to say that a thief was not a good man ?"

When somebody was speaking of a person who valued himself on being a matter-of-fact man : " Now," says he, " I value myself on being a matter-of-lie man."

He said to Leigh Hunt, with a face of great solemnity, " What must have been that man's feelings who thought himself *the first deist* !"

Talking of poetry, Lamb said that he had just met with the most vigorous line he had ever read. " Where ?" " Out of the Camden's Head, all in one line—

‘ To One Hundred Pots of Porter .....£2 1s. 8d.’

It is truly H--Ho--meric," he added.

Henry Crabb Robinson was speaking to Lamb of his first brief, when he asked, " Did you not exclaim, ' Thou first great cause, least understood ?' "

Crabb Robinson relates how he met Sir Charles Bunbury and shook hands with him in London, while walking with Lamb. Lamb was all astonishment. " I had no idea that you knew Sheridan." " Nor do I—that is Sir Charles Bunbury." " That's impossible ; I have known him to be Sheridan all my life. That *shall* be Sheridan. You thief ! you have stolen my Sheridan !"

An old lady, fond of her dissenting minister, wearied Lamb by the length of her praises. " I speak because I *know* him well," said she. " Well, I don't," replied Lamb ; " I don't ; but, damn him ! at a venture."

A retired cheesemonger, who hated any allusion to the business which had enriched him, once remarked to Charles Lamb, in the course of a discussion on the Poor-law : " You must bear in mind, sir, that I have got rid of all that stuff which you poets call the 'milk of human kindness.' " Lamb looked at him steadily, and gave his acquiescence in these words :—" Yes, sir, I am aware of it ; you turned it all into cheese several years ago."

De Quincey, in his *Recollections*, says :—"The case of insincerity, above all others, which moved his bile, was where, out of some pretended homage to public decorum, an individual was run down on account of any moral infirmities, such as we all have, or have had, or at least so easily and naturally may have had, that nobody knows whether we have them or not. In such a case, and in this only,—almost, Lamb could be savage in his manner. I remember one instance, where many of the leading authors of our age were assembled—Coleridge, Wordsworth, Southey, etc. Lamb was amongst them; and, when Mr. ——— was denounced as a man careless in the education of his children, and generally reputed to lead a licentious life—"Pretty fellows *we* are," said Lamb, "to abuse him on that last score, when every one of us, I suppose, on going out this night into the Strand, will make up to the first pretty girl he sees." Some laughed—some looked grim—some looked grand; but Wordsworth, smiling, and yet with solemnity, said—"I hope, I trust, Mr. Lamb, you are mistaken; or, at least, you do not include us all in the sweeping judgment?" "Oh, as to that," said Lamb, "who knows? There's no telling: sad Josephs are some of us in this room." Upon which everybody laughed, and Lamb amongst them; but he had been indignant and sincere in this rebuke of the hypocritical sacrifice to decorum. He manifested a fervour of feeling in such cases; not of anger primarily to the assailant—that was but a reaction; his fervour was a movement of intense and conscientious justice towards the person assailed, as in one who felt that he himself, if not by the very same trespasses, had erred and was liable to err; that he also was a brother in human infirmity, and a debtor to the frailty of all flesh, though not possibly by the same overt acts and habits."

One day, Leigh Hunt, after parting from Coleridge, exclaimed, in a tone of perplexed vexation, "What makes Coleridge talk in that way about heavenly grace and the holy Church, and that sort of thing?" "Ah," replied Lamb, with the hearty tone of a man uttering an obvious truism, but struggling with his habitual stammer, "there is a g-g-great deal of fun in Coleridge."

"Lamb describes himself as 'an Ancient Christian—too ancient to belong to any of the modern sub-hubbub-divisions of Ists, Arains, and Inians.'"



Robinson said he had all his life felt a sort of horror come over him every time he caught a sight of his own face in the glass ; and that he was almost afraid to shave himself for the same reason. He said he had often wondered how anybody could sustain an intimacy with, much less feel a friendship for, a man with such a face. Lamb said, "I hope you have mercy on the barbers, and always shave yourself."

Mr. N. P. Willis, in his "Pencillings by the Way," describes a meeting with Lamb and his sister, at Crabb Robinson's chambers in the Temple :—

"Nothing," he says, "could be more delightful than the kindness and affection between the brother and sister, though Lamb was continually taking advantage of her deafness to mistify her with the most singular gravity upon every topic that was started. 'Poor Mary!' said he, 'she hears all of an epigram but the point.' 'What are you saying of me, Charles?' she asked. 'Mr. Willis,' said he, raising his voice, 'admires your "Confessions of a Drunkard," very much, and I was saying that it was no merit of yours—that you understood the subject.' We had been speaking of this admirable essay (which was his own) half an hour before."

Lamb had been medically advised to a course of sea-bathing ; and, accordingly, at the door of his bathing machine, whilst he stood shivering with the cold, two stout fellows laid hold of him, one at each shoulder, like heraldic supporters ; they waited for the word of command from their principal, who began the following oration to them : "Hear me, men ! Take notice of this—I am to be dipped." But what more he would have said is unknown to land or sea, for having reached the word "dipped," he commenced such a rolling fire of di-di-di-di, that when at length he descended *à plomb* upon the full word *dipped*, the two men, rather tired of the long suspense, became satisfied that they had reached what lawyers call the "operative clause" of the sentence ; and both exclaiming "Oh yes, sir, we are quite aware of that," down they plunged him into the sea. On emerging, Lamb sobbed so much from the cold that he found no voice suitable to his indignation ; from necessity he seemed tranquil ; and again addressing the men, who stood respectfully listening, he began thus : "Men ! is it possible to obtain your

attention?" "Oh, surely sir, by all means." "Then listen: once more I tell you, I am to be di-di-di—"—and then, with a burst of indignation, "dipped, I tell you." "Oh, decidedly, sir," rejoined the men. "decidedly," and down the stammerer went for a second time. Petrified with cold and wrath, once more Lamb made a feeble attempt at explanation—"Grant me pa-pa-patience; is mum-um-murder you me-me-mean? Again, and a-ga-ga-gain, I tell you I'm to be di-di-di-dipped," now speaking furiously, with the voice of an injured man. "Oh yes, sir," the men replied, "we know that; we fully understood it;" and, for the third time, down went Lamb into the sea. "Oh limbs of Satan!" he said, on coming up for the third time, "it's now too late; I tell you that I am—no, that I was—by medical direction, to be di-di-di-dipped only once."



Made in a Model English Factory.

COPE'S CIGARETTES.

BIRD'S EYE... .. 3d. per packet of 12

JULIANA... .. 3d. per packet of 10

WHIFFS ... .. 4d. per packet of 10

OUR MUTUAL

FRIEND ... 4d. per packet of 10

SOLACE ... .. 6d. per packet of 10

*Sold by all Tobacconists.*

COPE'S CIGARETTES.

GOLDEN CLOUD—6d per box of 12,  
made with and without tubes.

FAIRY—A Cigar-shaped Cigarette, leaf  
cover, 9d. per bundle of 10.

HAVANA—A full-flavoured leaf-covered  
Cigarette, 1/- per box of 13.

*Sold by all Tobacconists.*

COPE'S CIGARETTES.

DUBEC—Finest Turkish—

9d per box of 10.

1/- per box of 20.

*Sold by all Tobacconists.*

Cope's Cigarettes are made by English Girls.

Not made in the Slums of Cairo or Constantinople.

Not made in Continental Prisons.

The first Smoking Mixture  
introduced to the Public.

---

**COPE'S**  
**SMOKING MIXTURE**



**THE PRAIRIE FLOWER**

---

**A** real old-fashioned  
Smoke. Familiar  
in their Mouths as House-  
hold Words. "Worth much  
and Cost little."

---



---

# COPE'S MIXTURE.

Sold in Packets only, by  
all Tobacconists.

1 OZ.	}	Always Alike.
2 OZ.		Always In Condition.
4 OZ.		Always Refreshing.

When you ask for it, see that  
you get it. Note the Trade  
Mark on opposite page.

**The first Smoking Mixture  
introduced to the Public.**

---

TOBACCO WORKS—10, Lord Nelson Street, LIVERPOOL.

BRANCH FACTORY—89, Great Eastern Street, LONDON, E.C.

---

*Price Lists and Terms supplied to the Trade only.*

---



COPE'S  
NAVY CUT.

*In 4 Oz. Boxes.*

*In 2 Oz. Boxes.*

*In 1 Oz. Paper  
Packets.*

Supplied to

“THE QUEEN'S NAVY,”  
COPE'S NAVY CUT

Is The Most { Honest, Popular,  
Uniform, Refreshing,  
Thoroughly Enjoyable  
Tobacco ever offered to Smokers.

SOLD by all Tobacconists.

89, GREAT EASTERN STREET, LONDON, E.C.

10, LORD NELSON STREET, LIVERPOOL.





# RIFLE CAKE.

## ROSE BUD:

*Mild Flavour.*

*In 1, 2, and 4 oz. Cakes.*

## MAY FLOWER:

*Full Flavour.*

*In 1, 2, and 4 oz. Cakes.*

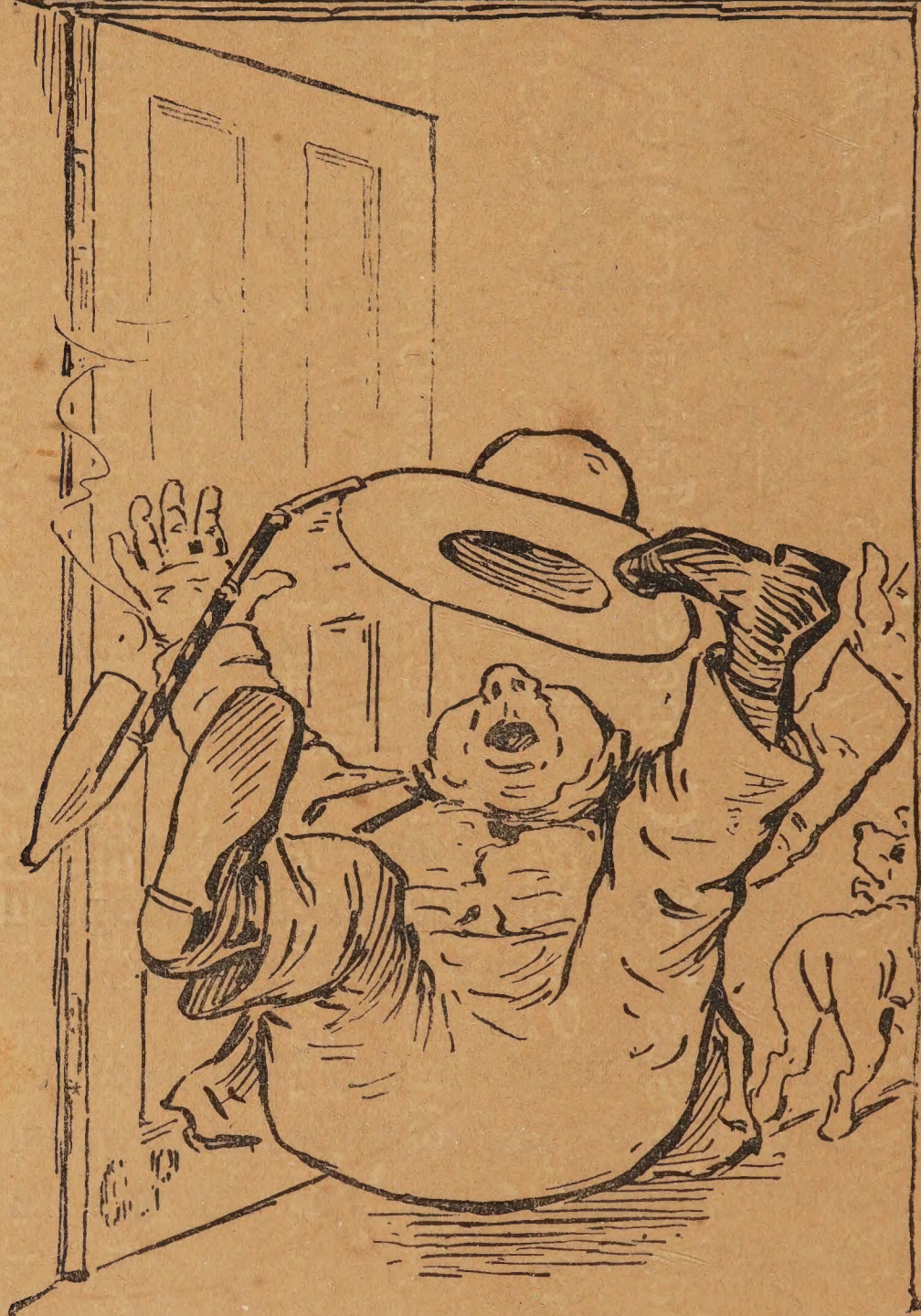
A cut Tobacco, made up in Cakes, ready for the Pipe, admirably adapted for carrying in the vest pocket.

The Tobaccos used in the Manufacture of Rifle Cake are Special Growths, Imported direct from the Farms in Old Virginny.

SOLD by all Tobacconists in 1, 2, and 4 oz. Cakes.



# ADVERTISEMENTS





# *NOTICE to Shippers and Exporters.*



Special Lists of Cope's Manufactures, Cigars,  
Cigarettes, Snuffs, Tobaccos, Pressed Spun  
and Cut, suitable for Exportation, forwarded on  
receipt of Business Card.



For London, **TELEGRAMS**:—Golden Cloud, London.

For Liverpool, **TELEGRAMS**:—Cope, Liverpool.





COPE'S  
BIRD'S EYE

ENT. STA. HALL.